REBELLE YELL

CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS JUST THE LATEST IN ACCOLADES FOR REBELLE, A DRAMA ABOUT A TEEN GIRL WHO'S FORCED TO BECOME A SOLDIER PAGE 14

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News worth sharing.

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FIGHT FIRING WITH FIRE

Firefighter Rob Ptolemy and his son Lucas, 2, listen to city council debate the 2013 operating and capital budget Tuesday at Toronto City Hall. Around 100 firefighters showed up, all dressed in red, to show solidarity against budget cuts that would affect their team. Story, page 3. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The straight dope on Lance's future

Honesty and contrition are essential to restoring Armstrong's battered brand: Experts PAGE 11

Kill me or more will die, inmate warned

The murderer's wish has been granted. After a twisted quest, Robert Gleason Jr. is to be electrocuted in Virginia's death chamber Wednesday night PAGE 7

TTC cops charged in fines scheme

Five arrested. Eight transit officers fired after probe finds they weren't working as claimed

In a blow to the public trust, the TTC has fired eight of its 40 transit enforcement officers.

Five of them have been arrested and charged in connection with a fake-fines scheme designed to make it look like they were working when, in fact, they weren't.

The TTC employees, including a sergeant in a supervisory position, were dismissed and charged on Tuesday following a joint investigation with Toronto police.

"(The officers) would show up for work, they were in uniform, they would be in their vehicles, but they would not be where they said they were," said TTC spokesman Brad Ross.

He would not say where the officers were or what they were doing when they were supposed to be working.

Several hundred provincial tickets were issued to homeless people who had no fixed address. The individuals would never have received the tickets or even been aware they had been issued, said Ross.

A joint TTC and Toronto police investigation, including surveillance of some transit enforcement officers, was launched in September after irregularities in tickets were spotted internally, he said.

TTC chair Karen Stintz admitted that the news couldn't come at a worse time for the TTC, which has been trying to recover from long-running rider complaints about rude transit workers and poor customer service.

Although no money was stolen, the officers are alleged to have collected pay for work they didn't perform, she said.

The transit officers earn between $60,000 and $70,000 annually. Many of the fabricated tickets were for loitering and solicitation, which carry a $195 fine. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Public trust violated

"Their job is to protect the public trust within the transit system and that trust has been violated by their actions. It is a big deal and we take it seriously."

TTC chair Karen Stintz

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Tel.: 416-869-3456

Montreal Hyatt Regency
27th-29th Jan (29th Jan until 4:00 pm)
1255 Jeanne-Mance,
Montreal Quebec H5B 1E5
Tel.: 514-982-1234

Edmonton Delta Centre Suite Hotel
3rd-4th Feb (4th Feb until 5:00 pm)
10222 102 Street,
Edmonton AB T5J 4C5
Tel.: 780-429-3900

Victoria Delta Ocean Pointe & Spa Hotel
7th-8th Feb (8th Feb until 5:00 pm)
45 Songhees Road
Victoria BC V9A 6T3
Tel.: 250-360-2999

Toronto Sheraton Airport Hotel & Conference Centre
20th-22nd Jan (22nd Jan until 6:00 pm)
801 Dixon Road, Toronto,
Ontario M9W 1J5
Tel.: 416-675-6100

Ottawa Delta City Centre
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Put off by gay counselling group, people abandon U of T church

A Catholic group that counsels homosexuals to be celibate has prompted dozens of offended people to leave a parish on U of T campus and earned a rebuke from the university. Yet it continues to operate.

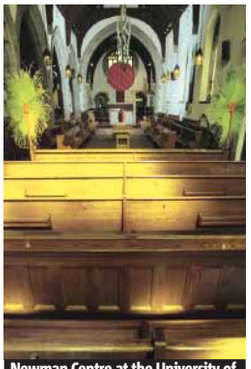
A chapter of the international organization Courage, a self-described support group for homosexuals in the Catholic Church, was invited to the Newman Centre's St. Thomas Aquinas Parish last year. Shortly after, several parish members lodged a complaint with the University of Toronto, even though the parish is independent from the university.

The Newman Centre then posted a comment on its website specifying that the program is not offered by or connected to the university, but it supports Courage's activities.

"This group indoctrinates ... praying yourself straight," said Stuart Graham, a former liturgical minister and lector at the parish who was one of those who complained.

"They're telling young people who are confused and frightened that they're damned. I'm shocked we're dealing with this in 2013."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Newman Centre at the University of Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toddler death. Brother was ill with flu as family awaits autopsy results

Outside the apartment door of a family in St. James Town, a bouquet of red roses lies on the floor.

It was here that a two-year-old boy was found dead on Monday, while his older brother was taken to hospital with flu-like symptoms, according to Toronto Emergency Medical Services.

A woman identifying herself as the boys' aunt said on Tuesday the family is devastated by the toddler's death.

She did say the older boy, who was taken to Sick Kids hospital on Monday, "is fine" and has now been released.

Toronto police remained on the scene until late Tuesday afternoon, with an official seal on the family's apartment, pending the results of a coroner's investigation into the toddler's cause of death.

Coroner's office spokesperson Jennifer Kerr said an autopsy on the toddler's body was performed Tuesday, and that samples had been sent to a lab. Results are expected Wednesday, said Kerr.

It is still unclear whether the boy had the flu.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

T.O. budget blows hot and cold

Cross purposes.
Mayor's vote for tax freeze after presenting a 2% budget, fire cuts have some seeing red

Mayor Rob Ford sits under the wheels of a fire truck.

His executive committee's united front of no spending beyond the $7 million already added to the $9.4-billion proposed 2013 budget splintered Tuesday. Some allies broke ranks in support of at least delaying controversial cuts mothballing five fire trucks and closing a station on Runnymede Road, while others fumed.

Quoted

"I find it highly unusual for ... the mayor to vote against his own budget."
Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong

When council resumes Wednesday, both the fire compromise and a separate move opposed by Ford, to add $1.16 million to a student nutrition program, seem likely to have the support of a majority 23 councillors.

The day started oddly when Ford presented his budget, complete with a two per cent property tax hike, then voted in favour of Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti's snap motion for a tax freeze.

"He presented a two per cent budget and then he voted for zero per cent," a clearly livid Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong, Ford's public works chair, said after the tax freeze failed and the mayor voted for two per cent.

"I find it highly unusual for the chair of the executive committee and the mayor to vote against his own budget."

Coun. Mike Del Grande, Ford's budget chief and very close ally, said he hoped that Ford had pushed the wrong button to vote.

But Ford spokesman George Christopoulos said the mayor was being "open-minded. If council had wanted the zero per cent he would have went out and found the money."

The property tax increase adds $49.65 for an average home assessed at $474,368. An assessment shift brings the final tab to $62.08.

Later, it was obvious some councillors were feeling the heat under the gaze of dozens of red-shirted firefighters, the president of their association and two lobbyists arguing the proposed fire cuts would jeopardize public safety.

Coun. Paula Fletcher tabled a motion to add 63 firefighters to the budget to keep the trucks and station operational. That sparked behind-the-scenes talks even though Ford has accused the firefighters of "blowing smoke" in opposing cuts identified by their fire chief after he was told to freeze spending.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teachers step up protest action with plans to demonstrate at MPP offices

Toronto elementary and secondary school teachers protest Bill 115 at Mowat Block on Bay Street Tuesday. Union president Sam Hammond says about 2,000 Toronto public elementary school teachers joined the demonstration outside the Ministry of Education offices. Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, which represents public high school teachers, plan similar protests Wednesday at the offices of MPPs across the province.

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Boyfriend in custody after local woman killed in Bangladesh

No charges laid.
Mystery surrounds death of 20-year-old Jerin Mir

Jerin Mir CONTRIBUTED/FACEBOOK

The young couple went for a walk along some train tracks in Dhaka, that much is clear, but how and why 20-year-old Jerin Mir ended up dead remains a mystery.

The Scarborough woman was killed on Saturday in Bangladesh, where she had been studying medicine for the past two years.

A man identified by authorities and friends as Mir's boyfriend is being held by police in Bangladesh after her family accused him in her death. Mohiuddin Sharan has been in custody since Sunday, but as of Tuesday had not been charged.

Under Bangladeshi law, police can make an arrest when a citizen files a "murder case." It is then up to the courts to decide whether the accused will be held during an investigation. A judge in Dhaka approved a three-day detainment for Sharan on Monday, after Mir's family filed a case.

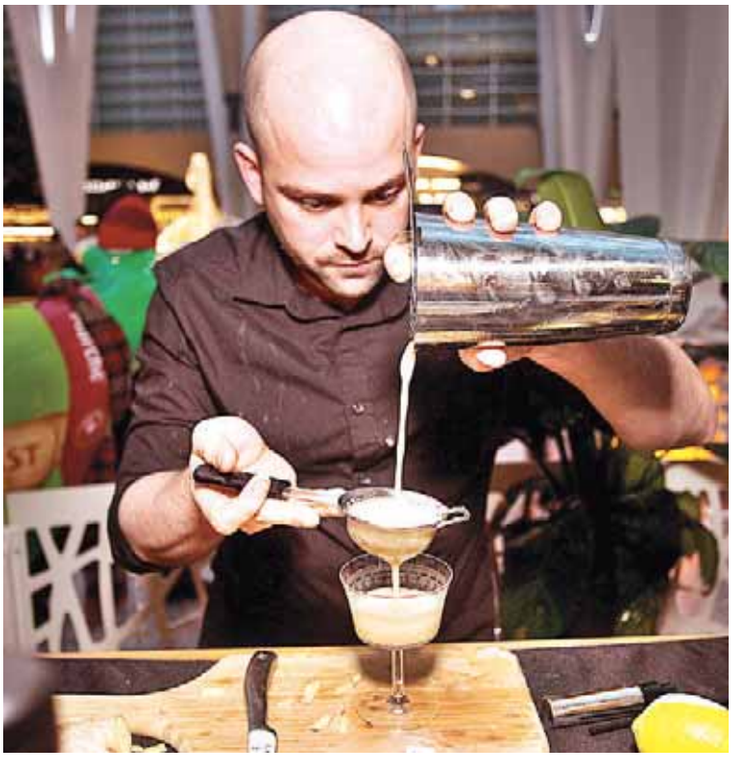
Family and friends say Mir met Sharan in Bangladesh through a friend from the Medical College for Women in Uttara, a suburb of Dhaka. Mir and her boyfriend made their romance official on Facebook in September, declaring themselves "in a relationship."

Family members said Mir visited an aunt on Saturday afternoon and left at about 4:30 p.m. Soon after, she and Sharan went for a walk near a rail station. Sometime around 8 p.m., Sharan rushed into a local hospital, carrying Mir in his arms. Family members said she was bleeding from the head and died soon after.

In news reports, Sharan later told journalists that Mir had been hit by a train. Authorities were not able to confirm this. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation

- Though early news reports in Bangladesh said Jerin Mir was hit by a train, her family say they believe she died of severe head injuries after being slammed against the side of a slow-moving locomotive.
- Mir's parents, who grew up in Bangladesh and moved to Canada before their three children were born, are awaiting the results of an autopsy they hope will provide more details about the cause of her death.



Bartenders make a splash at cocktail contest

Joshua Oliver Prout, who works at the Oxley Public House, vies with 26 other Toronto bartenders on Tuesday for a spot in the fourth-annual MadeWithLove competition at the Marché Restaurant in the Financial District. The mixologists pulled out all the stops to impress judges with their version of a city-inspired cocktail. The main event will be held in March. CONTRIBUTED/SIMON LA

Armstrong confession a social event for cyclists

Oprah Winfrey speaks with Lance Armstrong on Monday about the controversy surrounding his cycling career. The interview will air in two parts, starting on Thursday on Winfrey's network. CONTRIBUTED

"Introducing some new cycling initiatives in Dundas, and watch the fall of a legend."

That's the tagline for an event happening on Thursday at Domestique-Café Cyclo Sportif, a cycling-themed coffee shop in Dundas.

The café was already hosting a cycling-related event that night. When they found out about Lance Armstrong's interview with Oprah Winfrey, during which he is reported to admit to doping, they decided to show it on the big screen. Founder Krys Hines is expecting a crowd of local cyclists.

Eon D'Ornellas, owner of D'Ornellas Bike Shop in Scarborough, is putting on a party of his own.

"It'll be a nice way of watching it," he said. "If we do it like that, it will be more interesting."

The plan is to hold a Q-and-A session at 8:30 p.m., in which people discuss Armstrong's career before the interview airs.

Old news?

"I have no illusions. I've known for a long time about all of this. It's obvious to anyone in a certain level of know."
Krys Hinds, founder, Domestique-Café Cyclo Sportif

"I'm just going to PVR it," said Mitch Kamiel, a member of the D'Ornellas Cycling Club. "Don't expect any real truth to come out of such a staged event."

The allegations against Armstrong have led to diverse opinions on doping in cycling.

D'Ornellas, who is a former Canadian Olympic cyclist, took issue with the fact that Armstrong denied the charges for so long.

"If they clean it up now, I think it will be good for the sport in the future," he said. "Then everybody's on fair playing ground."

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Dying mom's family moved by help

'Weight off my shoulders.' Offers of covering funeral, other assistance mean daughter could go back to school

Quoted

"It was a total shock to me that anyone would try and help. Nobody has done anything like this for me in my whole life."
Kimberley Watzl

As soon as the emails started pouring in, Amanda Gray knew something was about to change.

Her single mother, Kimberley Watzl, is dying of cervical cancer. Gray, 20, had feared she would not be able to afford a dignified burial or take care of her 14-year-old brother Jamal when her mom passed away.

But after a Torstar News Service story last week revealed the family's plight, more than 100 readers replied with heartfelt messages of support. Now, a church and funeral home have offered a pro bono service, visitation and casket, while donations are expected to pay for a cemetery plot and tombstone.

"It's a dream come true. There are no other words for it," Gray said. "I never expected people would want to help us this much."

Gray won legal custody of her brother last fall and promptly put her dreams of going to college on hold. She has a $1,700 OSAP debt, which she had no hope of paying off while supporting Jamal.

When she learned an anonymous donor had offered to pay the full debt immediately, she was momentarily speechless.

"Wow ... I — I'm in shock," she stammered. "It's like a weight off my shoulders. That means I could go back to school as soon as possible."

There have been dozens of donations, plus offers of employment, home-cooked meals, tutoring and simply someone to talk to. Two readers are donating an Xbox and laptop, gifts that Watzl could not afford to buy her kids for Christmas.

Even as her health grows worse, Watzl seems joyful and positive. She has printed out many of the emails sent to her children and talked on the phone with some readers.

The Saint Clare Catholic Church, with help from the St. Vincent de Paul Society, will provide the free funeral service, while Ward Funeral Home will provide two days' visitation and an upgraded casket.

John Ward, director of the funeral home, said it's what he typically offers families on social assistance, who receive a lump sum from ODSP that only covers four hours' visitation and a basic casket.

Watzl's struggle

Kimberley Watzl, 41, was given three months to live in October.

- Although she was mobile and coherent in early January, she is now confined to a wheelchair and has short-term memory loss.
- On Monday, Amanda and Jamal rushed to Kensington Hospice, where their mother is staying, because the nephrostomy tubes draining her kidneys were leaking.

Kimberley Watzl with her 20-year-old daughter Amanda Gray and 14-year-old son Jamal Gray are grateful for the outpouring of support from the community. Watzl is dying of cervical cancer. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The brother and sister still hope to buy a tombstone and plot in Prospect Cemetery, since it is close to their home at St. Clair and Oakwood.

Readers also pointed to social services and programs the family may be eligible for, which they are now exploring. MPP Jonah Schein has also reached out to help Gray and Jamal.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone for helping. It makes me happy to see my mother happy," said Jamal. "It changed our lives."

The family has set up an online donation account at indiegogo.com.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hockey Night in Long Branch

Members of the West Mall Lightning Peewee AA team whoop it up for the camera at the Long Branch Arena on Tuesday, during the taping for their upcoming appearance on CBC's Hockey Night in Canada. The Lightning is one of several minor hockey teams chosen from across Canada to be Scotiabank Hockey Tonight Kids, welcoming viewers for televised games throughout the season. COURTESY ARTHUR MOLA

Microloans

Ontario to help low-income women start businesses

Ontario will spend $760,000 over the next two years to help low-income women become entrepreneurs.

The initiative, announced Tuesday by Women's Issues Minister Laurel Broten, includes training and microloans of between $500 and $5,000.

The money could help a single mother start a new culinary business or a recent university graduate open her own fitness centre, she said.

"The possibilities are truly limitless," said Broten.

"Women are best able to support themselves and their families when they are empowered to become financially self-sufficient.

"Microlending has been proven effective in lifting women out of poverty here in Ontario and around the world — allowing women not only to survive, but to thrive."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Quebec eyes guidelines for right to die

Suffering. Under new legislation, assisted suicide would not be considered 'suicide'

Junior minister Veronique Hivon
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Quebec government believes it has found a way to not run afoul of Ottawa after a legal panel recommended that terminally ill patients have the right to die.

Provincial junior health minister Veronique Hivon said Tuesday the panel determined that provinces have the jurisdiction to legislate in matters of health and that the future legislation would clarify how acts to end a life wouldn't be considered suicide.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Canada under the Criminal Code. Julie Di Mambro, a spokeswoman for federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, said Tuesday the government's position remains the same.

"This is a painful and divisive issue that has been thoroughly debated in parliament," she said. "We respect parliament's decision."

Hivon said the Quebec government can now pass a law with strict guidelines that will respect the wishes of the dying to shorten their suffering and provide doctors with a clear legal framework.

Under the recommendations, patients themselves would have to make the request to a doctor on the basis of unbearable physical or psychological suffering. Two physicians would have to approve the written request.

The Quebec panel, which was headed by lawyer Jean-Pierre Menard, said people suffering from an incurable or degenerative illness should be allowed to ask for medical assistance to help them die.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

Canadians have grappled with the right-to-die issue for nearly two decades.

- **Tuesday's recommendations** follow a landmark report from last March.
- **In 1992,** assisted suicide hit the national radar when Sue Rodriguez, a B.C. woman, fought all the way to the Supreme Court for the right to kill herself. She did in 1994.

Apartment for sale: Open concept, close to public transit

Emergency services attend the scene after a derailed train crashed into the side of an apartment building in Saltsjobaden, outside Stockholm, Tuesday. A woman in her early 20s obtained the keys, stole the train and drove it about 1.6 kilometres to the end station on the railway line, where it jumped off the tracks, careened for about 25 metres and crashed into a three-storey building. She was the only one injured in the incident. The motives of the woman, who worked for a company contracted to carry out cleaning for the train operator, were not immediately clear. JONAS EKSTRÖMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear of children. Teacher sues school over phobia

A former teacher is suing the U.S. school district where she used to work, saying administrators discriminated against her because she has a rare phobia: a fear of young children.

Maria Waltherr-Willard, 61, had been teaching Spanish and French to teenagers in Ohio since 1976.

Waltherr-Willard was transferred to a school with younger students in 2009. She says the kids there triggered her phobia, forcing her to retire.

Her lawsuit says her fear of young children falls under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and that the district violated it by transferring her and not letting her go back to her former school.

Patrick McGrath, a clinical psychologist in Chicago said that anyone can be afraid of anything.

"We've had mothers who wouldn't touch their children after they're born," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada vs. U.S. Flu shot helps Americans more

New data suggests that Canadians who got a flu shot this year cut their risk of getting sick enough to require medical care by about half.

That's slightly lower than the estimate that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released late last week.

In the U.S., the CDC said this year's flu vaccine reduces the risk by 62 per cent overall and by 55 per cent against influenza A viruses.

Dr. Danuta Skowronski, who led the Canadian study, says the cross-border difference relates to the fact that in Canada, most infections this year are caused by the influenza A subtype H3N2.

Skowronski, who is with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, says while the protection isn't as high as public health would like, it's still significant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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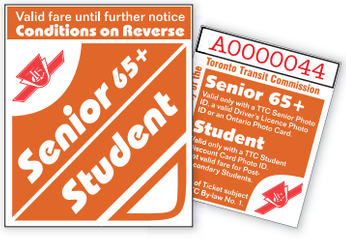

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Divisive restrictions.
Obama set to present gun violence proposals

President Barack Obama will reveal the details of how the U.S. will address gun violence on Wednesday, the White House said Tuesday, while New York passed the toughest gun-control law in the nation and dared other states to do the same.

The Obama administration has been moving quickly on the issue before the shock fades over last month's school shooting in Connecticut, which Obama has called the worst day of his presidency.

The White House said Obama would appear Wednesday with children who wrote letters to him after the shooting — a clear attempt to appeal to the public as opposition grows among pro-gun groups and Americans who fear their weapons will be taken away. The U.S. has the highest rate of gun ownership of any country in the world.

Obama has acknowledged a tough fight ahead in a deeply divided Congress, whose support would be needed to pass the most sweeping changes under consideration, including a ban on assault weapons, limits on high-capacity ammunition magazines like the ones used in the Connecticut shooting and background checks for anyone seeking to purchase a gun. The gun in last month's shooting was legally purchased. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Alleged subway pusher

Victim 'rolled like a bowling ball,' suspect claims

Homeless suspect Naeem Davis, charged with killing a stranger by pushing him into the path of a New York City subway train, told investigators his victim "rolled like a bowling ball" after he landed on the tracks, according to court papers. He also wrote that he "shouldn't have let this happen," the document says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cannibalism case

N.Y.C. officer denied bail

A federal appeals court denied bail Tuesday for a New York City police officer charged with conspiring to rape, kill and eat women after a judge cited evidence that the case wasn't built on a fantasy.

The three-judge panel agreed with three lower-court judges that Gilberto Valle should remain imprisoned until his trial, which was postponed until next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convicted murderer will get his death wish

'Severely disturbed.'
Killer's lawyers claim his mental illness is forcing him to enlist the government's help to end his life

When Robert Gleason Jr. walks into Virginia's death chamber Wednesday night and is strapped into the rarely used electric chair, it will mark the end of a twisted quest to speed up his own death.

Gleason says it's not because he wants to die, but rather because he knows he will kill again if he's not executed. He was already serving life in prison when he killed his cellmate then vowed to continue killing unless he was put to death.

When the system wasn't moving fast enough, he strangled another inmate and warned that the body count would rise if they didn't heed his warnings. Gleason waived his appeals, and he remains in a legal battle with his former attorneys as they file last-minute appeals to try to save his life against his wishes.

"Why prolong it? The end result's gonna be the same," Gleason said in one of numerous interviews he's given to The Associated Press over three years. "The death part don't bother me. This has been a long time coming. It's called karma."

Gleason is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday at Greensville Correctional Center. Condemned Virginia inmates can choose between lethal injection and electrocution, and Gleason is the first inmate to choose electrocution since 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia inmate Robert Gleason Jr. VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Relentless violence

- Deputies had to use a stun gun on Gleason during a violent outburst in court in 2008 before he pleaded guilty to a shooting death that sent him to prison for life.
- A year later he got so frustrated when prison officials wouldn't move his mentally disturbed cellmate, Harvey Watson Jr., that Gleason hog-tied, beat and strangled the older man.
- While awaiting sentencing at a high-security prison that is reserved for Virginia's worst inmates, Gleason strangled 26-year-old Aaron Cooper.
- Gleason claims he's different from the other men on Virginia's death row because he only kills criminals.

Robert Gleason Jr. is scheduled to die at 9 p.m. Wednesday at Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, Va. Gleason is the first Virginia inmate since 2010 to select the electric chair as his method of execution. VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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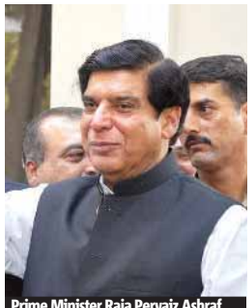
Pakistan. Supreme court orders PM's arrest amid mass protests against him


Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Pakistan's leaders received a powerful one-two punch Tuesday as the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the prime minister in a corruption case and a firebrand cleric led thousands of protesters in a second day of anti-government demonstrations in the capital.

The events set the stage for renewed political crisis in Pakistan, a key U.S. ally in the fight against Islamic militants and efforts to stabilize neighbouring Afghanistan. They sparked accusations that Pakistan's top judge and powerful generals were working to destabilize the government ahead of parliamentary elections expected in the spring, and possibly delay the vote.

The upcoming elections would mark the first time a civilian government completed a full five-year term and transferred power through the ballot box. Past governments have been toppled in military coups or dismissed by presidents allied with top generals.

A coup isn't expected but there is widespread unhappiness within the military, judiciary and the public about the government's performance at a time when the country is plagued by high unemployment, rampant energy shortages and frequent attacks by Islamic militants.

Many claim the country's politicians are more interested in lining their pockets through corrupt dealings than addressing problems facing citizens.

The court ruling relates to a case involving private power stations set up to provide electricity to energy-starved Pakistan. The judges are investigating allegations that the bidding process was marred by corruption. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 80 killed at Aleppo university: Activists

Syria. Both the Assad regime and rebel groups have denied responsibility for twin blasts on campus

Syrians gather at the site of an explosion at a university in Aleppo, Tuesday. Two explosions struck the main university in the northern city, state media and anti-government activists said. SANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twin blasts inside a university campus in Syria's largest city on Tuesday set cars ablaze, blew the walls off dormitory rooms and left more than 80 people dead, anti-regime activists said.

What caused the blasts remained unclear.

Anti-regime activists trying to topple President Bashar Assad's regime said his forces carried out two airstrikes. Syrian state media, for its part, blamed rebels fighting the Syrian government, saying they fired rockets that struck the campus.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a commercial capital, has been harshly contested since rebel forces, mostly from rural areas north of the city, pushed in and began clashing with government troops last summer.

Entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed due to infighting, frequent shelling and airstrikes by government forces.

The competing narratives of the two blasts at the city's main university highlight the difficulty of confirming reports from inside Syria. The Syrian government bars most media from working in the country, making independent confirmation difficult, and both anti-regime activists and the government sift the information they give the media in an effort to boost their cause.

Aleppo's university is in the city's northwest, a sector controlled by government forces, making it unclear why government jets would target it, as opposition activists claim.

Syria's state news agency blamed the attack on rebels, saying they fired two missiles at the university on the first day of the mid-year exam period, and killed students and people who were staying at the university after being displaced by violence elsewhere.

The UN says more than 60,000 people have been killed since conflict began.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

During a recent study by a University of Windsor researcher, a pair of yellow perch became inseparable, leading some to wonder just how social fish are.
PUBLIC DOMAIN/U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Experiment finds fishy friendship

Something in the water. Aquatic alliance between two perch lead to questions about the social life of fish

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

While testing a new method for tracking fish, a University of Windsor researcher has inadvertently played matchmaker to a pair of yellow perch.

Aaron Fisk and his team at the Great Lakes Institute tagged the fish and released them into ponds near Harrow, Ont., last fall. The tags sent data to six state-of-the-art receivers, recording the fishes' movement every few seconds.

The new, more granular data will be invaluable to Fisk's research, but it also revealed something unexpected.

While most of the tagged fish "did their own thing," Fisk was surprised to see two move in tandem. The two perch were so inseparable that some analysts asked whether one fish had simply eaten the other.

"We had two fish that spent a lot of time together, but what it was, we don't know," Fisk said.

Had the perch forged a fishy friendship, or maybe even an aquatic attraction?

"I don't know the sex of this fish, so we didn't follow up on that," said Fisk.

Although the subject falls outside his purview, Fisk said fish have far richer social lives than they're given credit for.

"Salmon, for example, have very specific behaviours around reproduction and spawning," he said. "Males will often defend nests and try different things to attract females."

After the first two weeks, Fisk's team added largemouth bass to the ponds to see if the perch's behaviour changed when predators were introduced. He's yet to analyze the data, so Fisk doesn't know if the piscine pals' relationship was cut short by tragedy.

"I don't have that data yet, but they were bigger perch, so I don't think they were going to be eaten," he said.

Although happy to discuss fish friendship, Fisk says his work is more about understanding how the food web reacts to stressors like climate change and invasive species.

"It's basically who eats what and why," he said.

Aided by the new receivers, Fisk hopes the data from his research will help Canada's fisheries become more productive and sustainable.

Quoted

"Males will often defend nests and try different things to attract females."

University of Windsor researcher Aaron Fisk on the social tendencies of salmon

Martian rock

Drilling time nears for Curiosity rover

NASA says the Curiosity rover should be ready to begin drilling on Mars soon.

It's the most highly anticipated milestone since the six-wheel, nuclear-powered rover landed near the Martian equator five months ago.

Mission managers outlined the drilling plan Tuesday. Project manager Richard Cook says the team has chosen the site where

An artist's rendering of the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity on Mars.
NASA/JPL-CALTECH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curiosity will test its drill for the first time. The spot contains a diverse sample of rocks that the rover can pick from. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World losing its sizzle

2012's average temperature ranks 10th in history

New weather data shows that the world's average temperature in 2012 barely slipped into the top 10 hottest years on record, despite the U.S. smashing heat marks.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says last year's world average temperature was 14.5 C. That's above the 20th century average of 13.9 C.

That ranks 2012 as the 10th hottest year in NOAA records that go back to 1880. The hottest was 2010.

A La Nina and mild weather in Alaska, Canada and parts of Asia moderated the globe's average temperature. The U.S. recorded its hottest year ever last year.

NASA, which measures temperatures differently, ranks 2012 as ninth warmest. Both agencies announced the data Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dog offers set of eyes for blind man in Nunavut

On disability. Former journalist Noah Papatsie lost his sight after studio lights exploded while he was at work

Noah Papatsie with Xeno the guide dog. CANADIAN GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

A legally blind Nunavut man who struggled through the territory's harsh winter environment with only a cane to guide him now has a new set of eyes, thanks to Xeno the guide dog.

Xeno is the territory's first guide dog; he's allowing Noah Papatsie to live independently in a place where there are few services for people with disabilities.

Papatsie said that the dog had to learn to obey his commands.

"If I tell him to go forward, he goes forward. If I tell him to go to the big store (grocery story), he takes me," Papatsie, 43, said.

Together, Papatsie and Xeno navigate the harsh climate of Iqaluit, where there are few sidewalks, along snow-encrusted roads.

"It had to be a special dog because there is lots of snow up here, there are no trees, no squirrels and there are a few sidewalks, but they aren't paved," Papatsie said.

He applied for a guide dog years ago and was placed on a waiting list with the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind in Ottawa.

Applicants are evaluated on physical condition, mobility, degree of blindness, and general ability to care for and work a guide dog.

The organization paid for Papatsie to travel to Ottawa to train for four weeks with the guide dog and they had to learn to become a team together.

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind is a national, non-profit charitable organization funded by donations.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Can Armstrong's brand be saved?

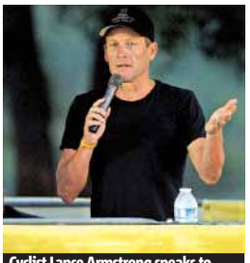
Crisis communications.
Disgraced cyclist's choice of PR strategy may lead to further complications

Nearly a week after the news first leaked, disgraced cycling champ Lance Armstrong's admission to Oprah Winfrey that he used performance-enhancing drugs is the worst-kept secret in sports media. It also represents a fork in the road to redemption for Armstrong, Inc.

Experts say restoring his good-guy reputation, and the earning potential that comes with it, means controlling the media message, then going silent for a few months.

However, compelling the World Anti-Doping Agency to lift its lifetime competition ban will require him to stay in the spotlight by testifying against crooked cycling officials.

Armstrong appears to have chosen the spotlight option, which may allow him to race again, but will also deliver another body blow to his already damaged public image.



Cyclist Lance Armstrong speaks to participants at the Livestrong Challenge Ride in Austin, Texas in October 2012. PR pros say his confession to Oprah doesn't follow protocol for crisis communications. GETTY IMAGES FILE

"His personal brand, as we know it, is done," says Quency Phillips, CEO of The Que Agency and marketing manager for several pro athletes. "You're going to hear more stories about the nasty side of Lance Armstrong. ... He's going to be a snitch, so that adds to the fact that he was a cheater."

While Armstrong's previous relationship with Winfrey prompted him to come clean on her television network, it also further complicates his public relations mission.

Crisis communications protocol dictates Armstrong limit the number of lead-in and follow-up stories to his confessional interview, but Winfrey needs to hype the program — which will run over two nights instead of the originally scheduled one — to help boost ratings for her struggling network.

Winfrey's interests won out, leading to a week-long slow drip of "leaked" details meant to build interest in the interview. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Oprah has her agenda, which is to milk this for all it's worth and get millions of dollars in free publicity. When you're doing something like Armstrong's doing, you don't want all these leaks."

David E. Johnson, CEO of Atlanta-based public relations firm Strategic Vision

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.62¢ (-0.03¢)

TSX 12,641.97 (+38.89)

OIL $93.28 US (-86¢)

GOLD $1,683.90 US (+$14.50)

Natural gas: $3.46 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,534.89 (+27.57)

ONLINE AUCTION
January 19th, 2013 at 11:00 AM

The following list of names and last known addresses, are people whose goods in storage at All Canadian Self Storage 1 Laird Dr Toronto On M4G 3S8 will be put up for online Auction on Saturday January 19th 2013 at 11:00am due to nonpayment of storage rent.

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5) **Allan Todd** 603-4 Grand Stand Place, Toronto, ON M4H 1E3
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THE SWEETNESS OF A GOOD BOOK

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

When you're a reader, there's nothing like finding a new series.

It's even better when, by the time you stumble upon it, there is already a bunch written that you can plow through with relish.

That's what happened with A Song of Ice and Fire (Game of Thrones), George R.R. Martin's wildly fascinating sword-and-sorcery epic. I got to it as Volume 3, A Storm of Swords, was released. As each book is well over 1,000 pages, I had at least three weeks of uninterrupted delight.

But then, I had to wait along with all the other geeks for Martin to continue the agonizingly slow process of churning out Nos. 4 and 5. Still to come, Nos. 6 and 7, and who knows when they'll be ready? Martin has apparently never met a book tour, fantasy conference or editing project he can resist. With any luck, we'll both be around for The End, but the odds are growing increasingly long … or is that short?

Which is why, if you haven't encountered Flavia de Luce until now, this is your lucky day. You have something to do while waiting for Martin's The Winds of Winter.

Flavia de Luce is an 11-year-old girl who lives in a rundown manor house in the English village of Bishop's Lacey in 1950. She solves murders, assisted by a fully stocked chemistry lab left by her uncle, her bicycle Gladys, and an 11-year-old's still-fresh curiosity.

Yeah, I know. But, world of wonders, these books, starting with The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, currently culminating in Volume 4, I Am Half-Sick of Shadows, are good.

Better than good.

Even crazier? They are written by a 74-year-old Canadian man, Alan Bradley, originally from Cobourg, Ont., who spent 25 years as a director of TV engineering at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He retired to Kelowna, B.C., where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

He'd never even been to England until 2007, when he went to pick up the first of Flavia's multitude of awards, but that didn't prevent him from nailing the Agatha Christie English-village murder mystery.

Of course, there aren't a lot of 74-year-old men who can write like an 11-year-old girl, but Bradley seems to have little trouble channelling his inner Flavia, who is by turns funny, solemn, wise, petulant, insightful, kind and, above all, curious. The kind of curious that killed the cat, essential in a murder mystery.

Hermione Granger meets Sherlock Holmes.

The good news gets even better. Unlike George R.R. Martin, Bradley has discipline and reliably finishes one of his novels a year. The next one is due, according to Amazon, in two weeks. Another volume in the series of 10 (say it ain't so!) arrives in early 2014.

Oh, and Hollywood director Sam Mendes has bought the TV rights, so stay tuned …

About the author

He retired to Kelowna, B.C., where he expected to go gently, etc., when a cataclysmic 2003 forest fire that nearly engulfed his house caused him to re-examine his scorched priorities and start writing like an 11-year-old girl.

Read an excerpt from the book Speaking from Among the Bones at metronews.ca.

Author Alan Bradley HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hands up, who's the cutest?

KATHERINE FENG/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT

High five!

Newborn panda says hello to world

It appears this baby panda was born for the limelight as he smiles and waves adorably in front of the camera. The 37-day-old cub seemed to enjoy his photo shoot after he was weighed, measured and fed by medics. This charming image was taken at Wolong National Nature Reserve's giant panda conservation centre in Sichuan, China. **METRO**

Photographer's view

"I think the cubs start looking cute at about four weeks when they are unmistakably baby pandas. At that age, they are roly-poly balls of black and white."

Dr. Katherine Feng, veterinarian/photographer

Fancy dress for good

Staff wear panda costumes

Wolong made news in 2010 after staff decided to don furry panda costumes.

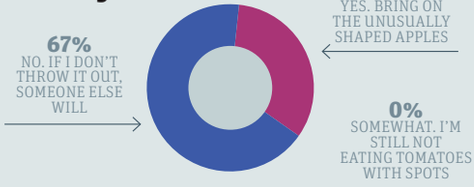
"We came up with the idea because captive pandas are too familiar with people. But by rearing them using panda suits, the baby panda would grow up never seeing any people," researcher Huang Yan said.

This way, Yan hopes, pandas who will return to the wild won't be too dependent on humans. **METRO**

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Will a new report saying up to half of the world's food is wasted change your consuming habits?


67%
NO. IF I DON'T THROW IT OUT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL
33%
YES. BRING ON THE UNUSUALLY SHAPED APPLES
0%
SOMEWHAT. I'M STILL NOT EATING TOMATOES WITH SPOTS

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@NoriSwift6687: Let the #Leafs explosion begin! #Boom #Boom

@staceykerslake: To the TTC driver that just closed the doors ON ME, real nice play and you wonder why the #Toronto community hates drivers so much #annoyed

@stevendeans: No respect for #Armstrong as an athlete. But he inspired millions of lives to work hard and persevere! I can respect that@ LIVESTRONG

@KeenOnDeen83: How many of America's top athletes are doping? Lance Armstrong is one of a many. Too much money involved. #Lance-Armstrong #Doping#USA

@alvingongora: Happy birthday Dr. Martin Luther King. Thanks for so much light. Still pursuing your dream

metro
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Conan the Barbarian (1982)

Arnie as Conan makes for possibly the most homoerotic hero of all time. Leather jock straps fringed with rabbit fur and his flowing locks make for an '80s porn fantasy.

The Terminator (1984)

Accessories-wise, Schwarzenegger always liked to make a statement, gunning for dual Uzis, pump action shotguns and Harley Davidson motorcycles — what a man.

Action-hero-turned-politician-turned-action-hero Arnold Schwarzenegger returns to the movies as an aviator-wearing sheriff in The Last Stand. He's buff and badass in this outing. Metro looks back at some of his best and worst movie style moments — and boy are there some howlers.

RICHARD PECKETT

Kindergarten Cop (1990)

This time Arnold, playing Detective John Kimble, who goes undercover as a teacher, gets down with the kids. Roomy slacks, plaid and polo shirts — can this really be the same gun-toting meathead?

Batman and Robin (1997)

When he's not causing chaos, Mr. Freeze likes nothing more than to chill out in a quilted smoking jacket, Ascot tie and a Cuban cigar — ever the gent, minus the makeup.

In Focus

Taking a Stand on drug movies

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on his first lead role in 10 years. In the Last Stand he's Sheriff Ray Owens, a rootin', tootin' small town lawman who battles a Mexican drug cartel.

It's the first time Arnold has fought drug lords, but Hollywood often looks to the cartels for a supply of bad guys.

As recently as last year Oliver Stone cast Salma Hayek as the ruthless cartel leader in Savages, aided and abetted by Benicio Del Toro as her henchman.

There are also rumours that Scarface, the legendarily violent Al Pacino movie about a Cuban immigrant who takes over the south Florida drug trade, is about to be remade and relocated to the world of Mexican drug cartels.

The Johnny Depp movie Blow was actually renamed Cartel in some markets. Based on the book Blow: How a Small Town Boy Made $100 Million with the Medellín Cocaine Cartel and Lost It All, Depp plays George Jung, the man who launched the American cocaine market in the 1970s.

Finally, Colombiana is another cartel revenge flick. Zoe Saldana is Cataleya Restrepo, who as a 10-year-old saw her parents killed by a Bogota drug lord.

Instead of calling the police she instead becomes an assassin who vows to avenge her family's deaths. Her journey starts with 10 words: "I want to be a killer. Can you help me?"

Mama is an upcoming horror film directed by Andres Muschietti starring Jessica Chastain. HANDOUT

Childhood trauma at root of Del Toro's Mama

Interview. Producer talks about why his films are so dark, and turning a short film into a full-length Hollywood horror

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

When I ask Guillermo Del Toro why his films often feature kids as main characters his answer is upfront, open and a little surprising.

"I had a horrible childhood, emotionally," says the director of The Devil's Backbone and Pan's Labyrinth. "I was not a child who was beaten or locked in a closet, but I really have a very intense relationship with the horror of Catholic guilt and the dogma. My grandmother was like Piper Laurie in Carrie. I was like a chubby version of Carrie. It was very difficult for me to get over that.

"I jokingly say I spent 40 years trying to recuperate from the first eight, but to a degree it is true. I really suffered intensely in the first 10 years of my life. I would cry at the concept of burning in hell, or the concept of purgatory and original sin. Mexican Catholicism is very, very brutal and very, very gory. That all affected me."

Quote

"There is a filmmaker in that short. Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say."

Guillermo Del Toro
Talking about the film that inspired Mama.

Mama, his latest producorial effort, is a spooky tale of two abandoned girls raised by a supernatural nanny. Del Toro came to the story after seeing a three-minute short film by director Andrés Muschietti.

"The short is brilliant," he says. "Atmospheric and creepy. You can see a storytelling will. You can see a voice. There is a filmmaker in that short.

"Very often you see shorts that are glossy but have very little to say. Or they're really intense and interesting but they are badly done. But this short had the perfect balance of form, function and story."

Muschietti is just the latest director to be discovered and mentored by Del Toro, who himself was given a helping hand by people like James Cameron.

"I've been very, very blessed by finding good people who believed in me at the right time. Obviously I try and pay it forward. Right now I'm 48-years-old and have been doing this for 30-something years, 20 directing. I've been able to produce close to 20 movies between Mexico and America and Spain and I would say in 99 per cent of the cases it has been really, really beautiful. A couple of cases it has been hard or the movie has been disappointing but Mama is one of the good ones I am really proud of."

Rebelle leads film nods for new award show

Canadian television and film. Laurence Anyways and Midnight's Children round out the top three at Canadian Screen Awards

Rebelle, starring Serge Kanyinda and Rachel Mwanza, is the front runner at the inaugural Canadian Screen Awards. COURTESY OF MONGREL MEDIA

The child soldier drama Rebelle leads the film nominations at the inaugural Canadian Screen Awards.

Kim Nguyen's harrowing feature, also known as War Witch, dominates the prizes with 12 nominations — including best picture and best director.

It will compete in those categories against Xavier Dolan's gender-bending drama Laurence Anyways, which earned 10 nominations, and Deepa Mehta's sprawling historical epic, Midnight's Children, which drew eight.

The first-ever nominees for the Canadian Screen Awards were announced this morning at simultaneous news conferences in Toronto and Montreal.

The new award honours achievement in both Canadian television and film, replacing the previously separate Gemini and Genie Awards.

Martin Short will host the first awards gala on March 3, with the two-hour ceremony set to air on CBC-TV.

On the TV side, CTV's cop hit Flashpoint leads with 11 nominations, while the HBO Canada comedy Less Than Kind scored 10.

The Canadian Screen Awards are just the latest accolades for Rebelle, an unflinching look at a teenage girl who's forced to become a child soldier in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The film is also nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign-language film category.

That makes Nguyen the third Quebec writer-director in a row to compete in the Oscar category, after Philippe Falardeau's Monsieur Lazhar and Denis Villeneuve's Incendies rode a wave of accolades to the Academy Awards.

Other films with multiple nods at the Canadian Screen Awards include Michael McGowan's Still Mine with seven nominations.

Michael Dowse's hockey comedy Goon received six nominations, and Anais Barbeau-Lavalette's Inch'Allah, got five.

Brandon Cronenberg's debut feature Antiviral and Martin Villeneuve's first film Mars et Avril each got four nominations while David Cronenberg's star-studded Cosmopolis drew three nods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By category

The nominations for the first Canadian Screen Awards were announced Tuesday. A look at the film nominees:

- **Best picture.** L'Affaire Dumont, Inch'Allah, Laurence Anyways, Midnight's Children, Rebelle, Still Mine.
- **Best film director.** Michael Dowse, Goon; Xavier Dolan, Laurence Anyways; Deepa Mehta, Midnight's Children; Kim Nguyen, Rebelle; Bernard Emond, Tout ce que tu possedes (All That You Possess).
- **Best film actor.** James Cromwell, Still Mine; Patrick Drolet, Tout ce que tu possedes (All That You Possess); Marc-Andre Grondin, L'affaire Dumont; David Morse, Collaborator; Melvil Poupaud, Laurence Anyways.
- **Best film actress.** Evelyne Brochu, Inch'Allah; Genevieve Bujold, Still Mine; Marilyn Castonguay, L'affaire Dumont; Suzanne Clement, Laurence Anyways; Rachel Mwanza, Rebelle (War Witch).
- **Best original screenplay.** Jason Buxton, Blackbird; Xavier Dolan, Laurence Anyways; Kim Nguyen, Rebelle (War Witch); Michael McGowan, Still Mine; Bernard Emond Tout ce que tu possedes (All That You Possess).
- **Best adapted screenplay.** David Cronenberg, Cosmopolis; Jay Baruchel and Evan Goldberg, Goon; Anita Doron, The Lesser Blessed; Martin Villeneuve, Mars et Avril; Salman Rushdie, Midnight's Children.

Midnight's Children received eight nominations. COURTESY OF HAMILTON MEHTA PRODUCTIONS

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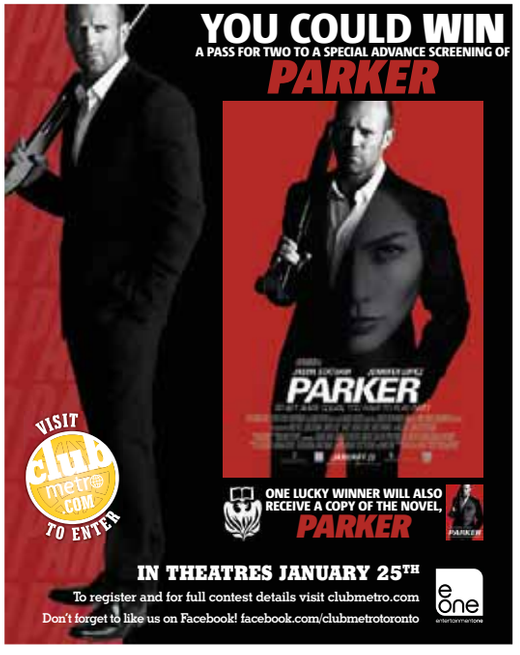
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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Spears' father arranged split with ex-fiancé?

Britney Spears reportedly had nothing to do with her breakup with ex-fiancé Jason Trawick, as the split was orchestrated by Trawick and Spears' father, Jamie Spears, who still has legal control of her personal life and finances, according to Radar Online.

"It really wasn't Britney's decision to announce the split last week, it was Jamie who made the call," a source says. "Jason wanted out, and in the fragile state that Britney is in, it's not like he could have a rational conversation with her about it, so it was really between him and Jamie. Britney was left out of everything and really didn't even know what was going on."

The biggest surprise, though, is exactly how in the dark Spears apparently is about her personal life.

"Jason and Jamie wanted to make sure that Britney didn't lose it, so they had to water things down for her a bit," the source says. "She still hasn't exactly grasped yet that the relationship is totally over."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Twitter

@SteveCarell
Apparently, once you have appeared on television, you are qualified to be a fashion designer.

@ParisJackson
i should probably start that biology homework right about now , aye ?

@kirstiealley
I think I accidentally murdered my pet spider...I stepped on a spider in the hallway ...my under the cabinet spider is MIA

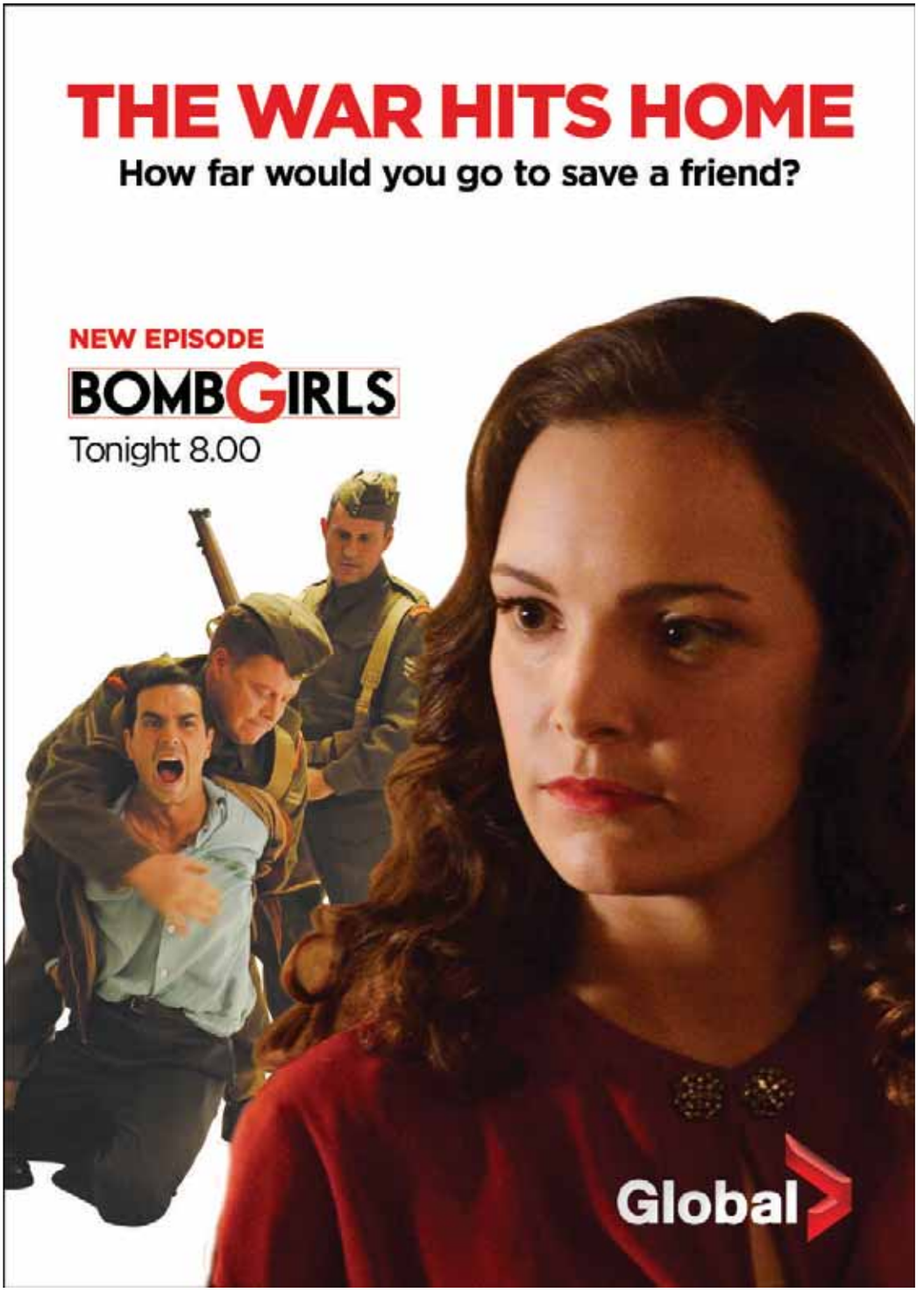
@Sethrogen
I have a very shocking admission to make... I've been doping.

Lindsay Lohan

Lohan still owes $300K to former attorney

Lindsay Lohan recently parted ways with her long-suffering attorney, Shawn Holley, but apparently there's still some unfinished business between them.

"Lindsay owes Shawn more than $300,000 in legal fees and she hasn't made any payments in over six months," a source tells Radar Online. "Lindsay hadn't paid anything for any of the work Shawn has done on her three new criminal charges of lying to cops, in connection with her car accident in Santa Monica last summer. Shawn has kept Lindsay out of jail for over five years now and she has no idea how good she has had it. Shawn is extremely respected by judges and prosecutors and that has benefited Lindsay greatly. Lindsay's new criminal attorney, Mark Heller, isn't even based in Los Angeles and certainly doesn't have the revered reputation that Shawn does."



5 spots that drive Dominic Monaghan wild

Lost and Lord of the Rings star Dominic Monaghan gets wild this year on OLN's new series Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan, which premieres Monday. Metro picked Monaghan's brain on his favourite escapes.

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

MTKOPONE/FLICKR

The rainforests of Ecuador

"Ecuador is a pretty beautiful part of the world, but I quickly get out of any cities, like Quito and make a full-day journey into the jungle, which is a drive to a boat, then a boat to a car, then a car to another boat and then finally ending up at this place called the Tiputini Research Centre, which is one of the places I based myself out of when I was making Wild Things. It's an extremely remote, extremely isolated research centre in the middle of the rainforest. It doesn't even appear on the map. If you want to experience what it's like to be out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by one of the most wild and unforgiving natural environments in the world, that's a pretty good kicking off place."

New Zealand's south islands

"Some of my happiest times travelling around have been exploring the south islands of New Zealand. New Zealand is obviously a very modernized country but the south islands have some pockets that have kept their natural beauty. My favourite way to experience that is to just rent a car and take a ferry from Picton on the southern point of the north island and get dropped off at the northern point of the south island and then just drive down to Queenstown over the coast for maybe three or four days, stopping in different places. It's a wild and blustery kind of place. You can see a lot of the places where we filmed sequences in Lord of the Rings. New Zealand is called the land of the long white cloud. It's just a really beautiful place to go to."

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"I really like Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. It's a very, very busy, crazy city with a lot of influences from many parts of the world. The French influence can be felt and Thailand and Cambodia have a bit of an influence here. It's just one of those cities where it gets busier and busier as the night gets on. Once the sun goes down the city really comes to life with a lot of noise and a lot of really interesting food you can buy on the street and friendly people and cool things to check out. There's a lot of people watching, going to squares and seeing some of the craziness."

The islands of Thailand

"Some of the islands up the coast of Thailand are pretty beautiful, like Ko Tao and Ko Samui. I really like going to a place called Krabi. They are pretty experienced with stuff like scuba diving and snorkelling and any kind of water activity you might want to do. There are amazing people in Thailand, really fantastic food, it's a great escape. I had some of the best food of my life and they're football crazy — they like soccer like I do. Manchester United games are a big deal for them in the same way they're a big deal for me."

GETTY IMAGES

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED

Berlin

"I go to Berlin a lot. It's not the most exotic of locations in the world in terms of jungles and crazy animals, but I was born in Berlin. It's a really interesting city, great architecture. It's got nice food. German food is a little heavy, but it's very tasty. They also do a pretty good line in beer and Berlin is one of those cities that feels like it's being dictated to by the young. The younger people are making the decisions there. There's a great culture of street art and graffiti, the museums are really interesting, there's great style on the street, there's great bars and cool music."

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Jasper heats up for annual winter festival

Jumping January.
Two-week event has mountain town hosting outdoor adventures, contests and a chili cook-off

It's like a big small-town party in the mountains.

Jasper in January is an annual festival scheduled smack-dab in the middle of winter for those brave enough to celebrate the cold instead of running off to the beaches of Mexico.

"We don't all have to hibernate throughout the winter," says Mary Darling, a spokeswoman with Tourism Jasper. "There's still things you can do."

Family fun, evening entertainment and outdoor adventures — many of them free — take place daily over two weeks, bringing the town of 5,000 to nearly double its size.

Picture it: making gooey s'mores over an outdoor fire, strapping on snowshoes surrounded by majestic mountains, throwing snowballs inside a pub while sipping a pint of beer, even sporting a Speedo while leaping into an icy lake.

"It's rejuvenating," says Peter Scott, a local electrician who plans to participate in his fourth Polar Bear Dip this Sunday.

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Jasper is about a 3 1/2-hour drive west of Edmonton. To many, it's considered Banff's little sister. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. While Banff is crowded and commercial, Jasper is quiet and laid-back.

History shows Jasper was a place where people lived before it became a travel destination. It was settled as a fur trading post, then designated a national park in 1907.

The addition of hotels, spas and five-star restaurants hasn't dampened its cosy and comfortable feel. And Jasper in January captures that allure, right from ice skating on a frozen pond to noshing on some homemade chili.

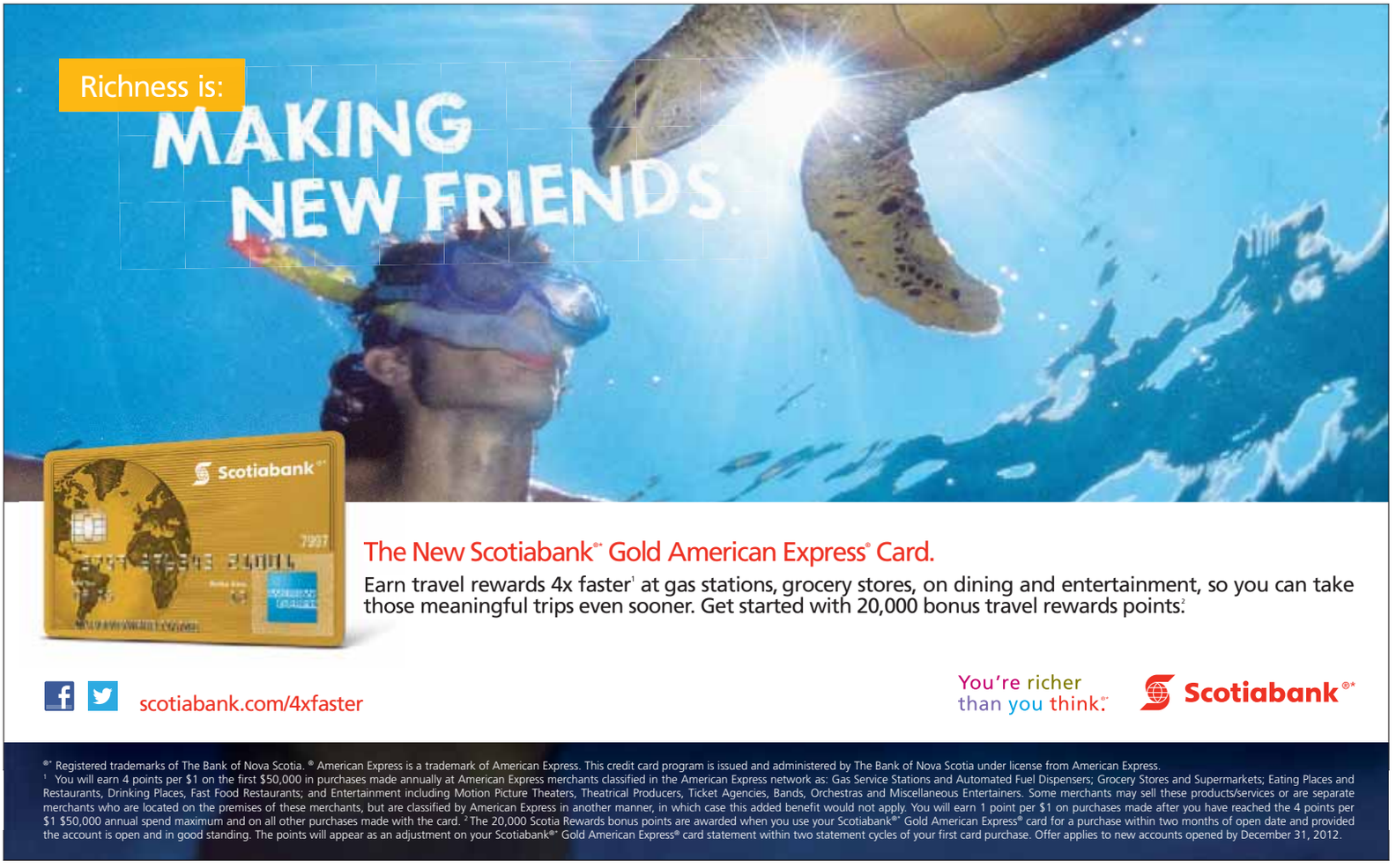
In fact, the chili cook-off this Friday night is the only event that has carried on each year since the festival started 24 years ago. Would-be chefs team up and mix pots of chili at the local activity centre, creating more than a dozen flavours that anyone can buy and sample.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **Jasper in January.** Event runs through Jan. 27.
- **Deals.** Most hotels are offering hot deals during the festival and Marmot Basin is also giving discounts on its ski lift tickets.
- **For more information.** Including a full calendar of events, check out jasperinjanuary.com.

A chili cook-off has been a staple of Jasper in January for 24 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Happy Birthday Tube

World's oldest metro. While some may rail on London's people mover, the subterranean train has a storied history

Busy, congested, stressful. This is how the world's first subway system was depicted by London newspapers in 1863. It's a situation that would be familiar to nail-biting passengers of the present as the Tube turned 150 years old Wednesday.

"The constant cry, as the trains arrived, of 'no room,' appeared to have a very depressing effect upon those assembled," The Guardian newspaper reported on the public opening of London's Metropolitan Line on Jan. 10, 1863. The first stretch of rail had opened the day before, on Jan. 9.

The line — the first part of what is now an extensive London transport network that has shaped the British capital and its suburbs — ran 120 trains each way during the day, carrying up to 40,000 excited passengers. Extra steam locomotives and cars were called in to handle the crowds.

Architectural historian David Lawrence said the rapid expansion of the subway network — better known in London as the Tube — had a major impact on the city's design. The Tube helped lure people away from the inner city into new areas where new housing was being built near the stations.

The houses were built in a village style mocked by some historians as already dated.

"They were selling an England which had already passed by that time," said Lawrence, a principal lecturer at Kingston University.

In 1919, the Metropolitan company became directly involved in developing what came to be called "Metro-land" on surplus land. One of the company's promotional posters displayed drab rows of inner city terrace houses and urged people to, "Leave this and move to Edgware."

However, they were also selling the dual benefit of a quiet, unpolluted suburban life paired with rapid access to the cultural and economic benefits of the metropolis, Lawrence said. The pioneering Metropolitan Line sparked a new wave of underground development which today has grown into a 402-kilometre system carrying 1.2 billion passenger journeys each year.

Although Londoners love to complain about its sometimes sketchy performance, the Tube and its related rail lines can be a remarkably efficient way to move vast numbers of people in and out of the city, with roughly 3.5 million journeys completed each day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking aim at the Tube

Like many an innovation, the proposal to build a 4.8 kilometre underground rail line from Paddington Station in central London to Farringdon on the edge of the financial district in the east aroused great skepticism and criticism when it was first proposed. The editorial in The Times of London at the time found the concept repulsive: "A subterranean railway under London was awfully suggestive of dank, noisome tunnels buried many fathoms deep beyond the reach of light or life; passages inhabited by rats, soaked with sewer drippings and poisoned by the escape of gas mains," the newspaper declared.

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you, London subway

Metropolitan 1, a restored steam train built in 1898, travels from Kensington Olympia Tube station to Moorgate station in London as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the London Underground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mayan Riviera 5 Nights 4-Star $922
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Cancun 6 Nights 4-Star $942
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Costa Rica 7 Nights 4-Star $990
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Travel tips

Choose your cruise line wisely. LOSTAJY/FLICKR

Considering a cruise?

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

Worried you may never find the ship and itinerary that are right for you? Here's your guide to discovering that perfect match. Remember, size matters. The large 2,000 plus passenger ships have numerous options for different budgets versus their smaller counterparts. They also tend to offer more amenities, services and activities, both on and off the ship. However, be prepared for the crowds and know that the larger vessels have more restrictions on which ports they are able to visit. Are you there for a good time or a long time? Caribbean cruises, especially the shorter itineraries, attract sun seekers primarily there to experience all the fun a ship has to offer. Longer trips to more exotic overseas locales tend to attract culture vultures who are more interested in exploring the destination. If the higher prices of an Asian or European cruise is off-putting consider booking an itinerary during the off-peak season. The Mediterranean in winter means lower prices and cheaper air fares.

Know the on-board culture and pick a cruise line that suits your style. Royal Caribbean targets active travellers with on board basketball courts, rock climbing walls and zip lines. Disney's teen clubs, family themed shows and nurseries are great for family fun. Staterooms that can sleep families of five are an added bonus. Crystal Cruises is a high-end experience; not as formal as Cunard but with the same first-class service. Expect to pay for it. If you are looking for Vegas on the waves, check out Carnival Cruise Lines. It all comes down to money. Costs can vary widely, but plan on at least $150 per person per day including taxes. Most cruises include accommodation, meals, onboard activities (excluding casino and spa) and in a few cases, alcohol. Shore excursions are almost always extra and expensive. Don't be afraid to explore a port on your own or book a tour in advance through a local operator. The increasingly popular river cruises are great for those interested in breaking away from the masses. Passengers disembark in the heart of small towns dotting the waterways of Europe and Asia versus on to the "tarmac" of a cruise ship terminal. When booking, ask lots of questions and choose wisely. It could be the beginning of a great relationship.

City Creek Centre is the most modern outdoor shopping plaza in the United States. COUNTYLEMONADE/FLICKR

City Creek Center

Built for a reported $1.6 billion in cash by the Mormon church to revitalize downtown Salt Lake City, it's the country's most modern outdoor shopping plaza. It has a trout stream meandering through the centre and retractable roofs that keep the place warm during winter. Just don't call it a "mall," a sacrilege to the architects.

The shopping complex spans two city blocks and has outdoor walkways, plazas, fireplaces and metal sculptures. Waterfalls and fountains dot the village-like development, which includes condominiums and is joined by a pedestrian bridge over Main Street. There are more than 100 stores and restaurants, but all of the 100 or so shops and restaurants are closed on Sundays, with the exception of two restaurants: Cheesecake Factory and Texas de Brazil.

Downtown Light Rail

Built with the 2002 Winter Olympics in mind, Salt Lake City's light-rail network is free for passengers as it weaves through downtown. Riders can get to and from major attractions such as Temple Square, City Creek Center, Salt Lake City Library, Energy Solutions Arena and the Gateway for free. An extension leading to the airport is expected to open this spring, but trips on that section will cost riders.

The last trains run anywhere from 11:30 p.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday and up till about 9 p.m. on Sundays.

The light rail network shuttles passengers (for free) to major attractions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Salt Lake City: All for free

Utah's internationally-acclaimed ski resorts are the main reason people visit Salt Lake City in the winter, but there are plenty of fun, free and interesting things to do in Salt Lake City while in the area and other times of year. Here's a sampling:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Temple Square holds one of the world's largest genealogy libraries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Temple Square

Utah's most-visited landmark, the granite-towered Temple Square, invokes the mystery of Mormonism. The 35-acre square is the worldwide headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and features the church's sacred temple, one of the world's largest genealogy libraries and spectacular gardens. The square is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and free tours are available in 30 different languages. Female church missionaries are happy to answer any questions.

The sacred temple — built over 40 years from 1853 to 1893 — is closed except to all but the most devoted churchgoers with a wallet pass. The temple is considered sacred to church members. At the Family History Library, genealogists will help you track down your family roots free of charge. The gardens within the square feature 250 flower beds with more than 700 different types of plants. They are redesigned every six months.

If you visit on a Thursday evening, you can catch the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsing at 8 p.m. in the historic Tabernacle.

The Salt Lake City Library is a place that invites people to linger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Salt Lake City Library

Making this library more than a place to read was the goal of renowned architect Moshe Safdie.

"My ambition was for it to be the best library in the world," he said.

Safdie designed a six-storey crescent of concrete and glass with vaulted ceilings. The building is a place that invites people to linger. It has a café, shops, high-speed Internet connections, art exhibits that turn over every six weeks, film lectures and occasional live music.

The $65 million building, with a roller-coaster look, has a 360-degree view of the city and mountains and a rooftop garden. A curving ramp — the library's signature outdoor feature — winds up to the garden.

Utah Museum of Contemporary Art

Recently ranked Utah's best museum, it's a four-time recipient of funding from the Andy Warhol Foundation. The museum is now featuring works by up-and-coming Utah artists Siren Bliss and Megan Geckler, and other exhibits by Jonathan Horowitz.

The second Saturday of each month the museum hosts a family arts event in which children and parents are led through creative art projects by trained artists. The museum has a gallery devoted to local artists and an artist-in-residency program that allows artists to hone their craft while gaining inspiration from the art around them. A new exhibit called Analogital is set to open on Jan. 18. The collection looks at art forms that have emerged during the culture's conversion from film grain to computer pixel. It will feature artists such as Eva and Marco Mattes and Christian Jankowski.

Check out works by up-and-coming Utah artists at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lima site all tomb and gloom

Private security guards watch visitors take a nighttime guided tour through the Presbitero Matias Maestro cemetery in Lima. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life and death tour. Visitors treated to a history lesson as they tread through a Peruvian cemetery

When Presbitero Matias Maestro cemetery in Lima received its first body in 1808, the best plots went to the elite, unless the noble had been dishonoured or disgraced.

Which is why the Marquis Torre Tagle and his wife were relegated to niches in a wall of crypts. He had attempted to betray independence leader Simon Bolivar and died of scurvy after living on rats for 13 months in a military fort near the Pacific Ocean.

Visitors to the 54-acre cemetery just 20 blocks from Lima's presidential palace, one of Latin America's oldest, are treated to such tales in a three-hour, nighttime guided tour run by its owner, Beneficiencia de Lima, a charity administered by the city.

"There have been 220,000 burials since the 19th century. Are there tormented souls?" asks tour guide Guben Chaparro. "Yes, there are souls, above all at night."

Some visitors shudder. They turn the lights of their cellphones on a parade of tombs, crosses and statues of angels.

"I want to get a fright, listen to stories and walk without light," says Julia Lopez, a 33-year-old store clerk who came with friends for the weekly walk.

As visitors enter, the grim reaper — OK, an actress in a costume — stands cloaked and holding a scythe at the entrance. Photos are snapped.

Guides then tell Peru's history through the tombs of presidents, prelates, poets, potentates and war heroes.

There are also tombs of popular saints the Vatican doesn't recognize.

The most popular is Ricardo Espiell, a child who died 119 years ago at age six after supposedly performing miracles. Devotees hang neckties around his white marble statue.

"Women wash the child's statue with shampoo and brushes. They bring flowers, gifts, notes. They perfume it and give thanks," says Chaparro.

The cemetery, created by one of the last Spanish viceroys, was established outside the walls of old Lima.

It has a special wall of niches for the obese and another wall for people who have taken their own lives.

In one niche, a poet was buried feet first, at his own request.

The press director for the cemetery, Yvette Sierra, says more than 10,000 people have taken the tour in the decade it's been offered. It is only offered in Spanish.

There are no more burials anymore, unless a family owns a mausoleum.

The relative peace of the place can make it eerie, but also contemplative.

"The fear you can feel at the start goes away," said visitor Rafael Vargas, "and you are left thinking, philosophizing about what your life will be after death."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **The tour.** Is offered twice a week, Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 6 p.m. It costs $8 for adults and is only offered in Spanish. Buses for the tours depart from the offices of the Beneficencia de Lima in downtown Lima at Jiron Puno 228, five blocks from the Plaza de Armas, the capital's central square. The district around the cemetery, Barrios Altos, is among Lima's least safe. It is not recommended to arrive there alone.
- **Ticket sales.** Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Jiron Puno 228.

Visitors to the 54-acre cemetery, just 20 blocks from Lima's presidential palace, are treated to tales about the people buried here in a nighttime guided tour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Buttermilk makes move from breakfast table to dinner superstar

Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches

This recipes serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First, a buttermilk primer. As its name suggests, buttermilk is the tangy milk-like liquid left behind when cultured cream is churned to make butter. At least that's how they made it in the old days. Today, it's usually commercially produced by adding cultures (think the bacteria that produces yogurt) to low- or no-fat milk.

We've all had buttermilk pancakes and waffles, but most people don't realize just how versatile an ingredient buttermilk is. And it belongs on the dinner table as much as at breakfast.

Let's start with buttermilk's signature tang. It's tangy because it's acidic, and acidic ingredients make for great marinades. Give chicken, pork or turkey a buttermilk bath and you'll get especially tender, flavourful meat. Before you add the meat, just whisk in whatever seasonings you want. That's how it's used in these Buttermilk-Soaked Pork Cutlet Sandwiches.

And that same tang turns out killer mashed potatoes. Use it in place of regular milk, then mash away. Ditto for sweet potatoes. Lastly, next time you're making vinaigrette for your salad or roasted vegetables, add buttermilk for rich, luxurious flavour. Try a blend of olive oil, buttermilk, lemon juice, strawberry jam, salt and black pepper.

Ingredients

- 1-lb pork tenderloin
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp Thai red curry paste, divided
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp cider vinegar
- 4 burger rolls
- Boston or other leafy lettuce
- 1 large tomato, sliced

1. Cut the tenderloin crosswise into thin rounds, each about 1/4 inch thick. One at a time, set each round between sheets of plastic wrap and pound evenly thin using a meat mallet or rolling pin.

2. In medium bowl, whisk together the buttermilk, 1 tablespoon of the red curry paste and salt. Add the pork and ensure it is evenly covered by the liquid. Refrigerate this for at least 1 hour and up to 8 hours.

3. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.

4. In a wide, shallow bowl, mix the breadcrumbs and pepper. Remove the pork cutlets from the marinade. Dredge each piece through the breadcrumbs, patting them on as needed to coat evenly. Arrange the pork cutlets on the prepared baking sheet.

5. Bake 10 minutes, or until cooked through.

6. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 teaspoon of red curry paste, the mayonnaise and vinegar. Slather a quarter of the mixture over the bottom half of each burger roll. Top with lettuce and tomato, then 1 or 2 pork cutlets. Serve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Brrberry Tea

There is nothing quite like a hot cup of tea to keep the winter blues away.

And when you add three types of alcohol to the mix, you have a whole new type of tea.

- .5 oz brandy
- .5 oz amaretto
- .5 oz triple sec
- Chai tea
- Splash orange juice
- Garnish orange wheel
- Garnish cinnamon stick

Add brandy, amaretto, tripple sec, juice and tea bag to glass. Add hot water.

Garnish with cinnamon stick and stir.

Add orange wheel garnish.

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Beyond dashing docs and medical mysteries

New to nursing? Anticipate everything but a chuckle-worthy, drama-filled day as romanticized on your TV screen

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Ever wondered what it's actually like to work day in and day out as a nurse? Or if they ever bump into McDreamy?

For those who are on their way to a career in nursing, we've got the skinny on what it's like to be a young nurse from two women who are working hard to keep their communities healthy.

Erin Okanik is a nurse at Kitchener-Waterloo's Grand River Hospital, where she has been working as a registered nurse since graduating from Western University in 2009. As if being a busy full-time emergency room nurse wasn't enough, she is also currently completing her master's degree.

Abigail Keeso graduated from Ryerson University in 2012, and has since been working as a registered nurse in the infectious diseases department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. When she's not wielding a stethoscope, Abigail writes about health and wellness. You can see what she's up to on Twitter.

The ability to smile is one of the keys to a successful nursing career. ISTOCK

What is a typical day like for you?

Okanik: I work in the ER and there is no such thing as a typical day! Depending on which area of the department I am assigned to, I could be helping to set and cast broken bones, or I could be the trauma nurse, working with a team of doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists or paramedics to resuscitate a patient in cardiac arrest.

The ER I work in sees all types of patients — from children to geriatric. The youngest patient I have ever cared for was 45 minutes old and the oldest was 105 years old. You need to be prepared for everything because you can never predict what might come through the doors.

Keeso: Depending on how sick my patients are, I can have anywhere from one to three patients. I go through my patients' care plans to get an understanding of their diagnosis and the plan of care. After I have briefed myself, I then sit down with the nurse from the previous shift so he or she can tell me what has happened over the last 12 hours. Then, I hit the floor running, introducing myself to my patients and their families, building those relationship, checking vital signs, blood work, dressing changes, specimen collection, hanging IV solutions, giving medications, etc.

Throughout the shift I work and consult with a large interdisciplinary team (including medical doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, respiratory therapists, registered dietitians, etc.). While these people are in and out throughout the day, I am with the patients all day, and I am responsible for making sure orders are implemented and advocating for my patients' needs.

Is there anything you wish you had known when you were still a nursing student?

Okanik: That nursing is NOTHING like those medical TV shows that I was always watching (ahem, Grey's Anatomy). Nursing in the real world can be physically and emotionally exhausting, dirty and sometimes tedious. Also, I have yet to meet a doctor who looks like McDreamy!

Keeso: One thing that sticks out is how much I learn every single day on the job. You certainly do not come out of nursing school ready to be an excellent nurse. With advances in medicine, drugs, technology and research, things are constantly changing.

Have you noticed any qualities that make someone a particularly successful nurse?

Okanik: The nurses I look up to at work share one hugely important quality: they are able to stay positive no matter what. The environment I work in is incredibly stressful, and we help patients and families through the worst days of their lives every day at work. We often work short-staffed and miss out on our lunch or dinner breaks. It's very easy to sometimes fall into being negative, but it is so important to be able to maintain a positive outlook during a long day at work. These are the nurses I would want to take care of myself or one of my loved ones.

Expect the unexpected

"You need to be prepared for everything because you can never predict what might come through the doors."

Abigail Keeso
Registered nurse in the infectious diseases department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

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Backing up your career in chiropractics

Throw me a bone.
From paperwork to placement, get advice on this pain-relieving pursuit from those who know it best

TUEN MUN ONG
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Each step on your way to becoming a chiropractor has its challenges. I asked three recently graduated chiropractors to share their advice on how to survive and navigate the world of applications, school and work.

Writing out your school application doesn't have to be a pain in the neck. Just be honest! ISTOCK

The Chiropractors

Dr. Joe Pratile and Dr. Joy Arciaga both graduated from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) in 2011 and have each been practicing for one-and-a-half years. They currently work at Vita Integrative Health Clinic in Toronto. Dr. Stephanie Anisko, working at AIM Health Group in Mississauga, has been practising for five years since graduating from CMCC in 2007.

Applications and preparation

Writing applications and waiting for answers from schools is always a stressful part of pursuing a career. What is your advice to students writing applications and hoping to get into chiropractic?

Dr. Joy Arciaga: When you're writing your applications, just be honest. If chiropractic is right for you, then you really have no reason to be anything other than honest. It's easy to say the things that the board wants to hear, but at the same time it has to be congruent with what you really believe in.

I completely agree on the waiting part. It is probably the most nerve-wracking part of the application process and it feels like you're waiting forever. There is no concrete advice I can offer here except be positive. You've done all the work. All the T's are crossed and the I's have been dotted. The interview is done. It's out of your hands.

Dr. Joe Pratile: Does it allow you to always be learning? Second, does it allow you to always be dreaming? Third, does it always allow you to always be taking risks to live up to your full potential? Fourth, does it allow you to find a cause higher than yourself and devote yourself to it? These will help you simply and help you build clarity in a complex situation. Fear has no place in a focused mind.

On the pursuit

Any advice on preparing yourself for pursuing chiropractic?

Pratile: Take these three ideas into consideration. First, do you like school? Buckle up, it's four more years. Second, read some chiropractic literature, magazines, and books on the topic to see if the natural healing philosophy and paradigm is right for you. Third, be prepared to study the business side of chiropractic as well, like marketing, advertising and so on.

You will have options coming out, but ultimately if you want to be your own boss, run your own clinic, or at least be a part of one, you will have to know how to streamline office procedures and build a clinic atmosphere. Customer and patient satisfaction and loyalty will always come from the tone you set and the care you take in your office protocols. In today's world of efficiency, people demand it these days and you will want to hit the ground running if possible.

My advice: Learn from a current chiropractor or health practitioner that, as close as possible, embodies how you would like to be in practice. Success leaves clues, now all you have to do is ask great questions that build clarity and take action steps. If you want anything in this world bad enough, you'll make it work.

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On being a student

Not too long ago, you were chiropractic school students yourselves. Do you have any tips for people who are in chiropractic school right now?

Dr. Stephanie Anisko: School can be a very overwhelming experience with the volume of homework, studying, exams and projects. Sometimes it is very easy to lose sight of the big picture, that you will soon be in an amazing profession with skills that will help people improve their quality of life and live without pain.

Find a chiropractor that can help mentor you during the process and go and visit their office to shadow them. That will help get you past some of the hurdles in school and also prepare you for when the exams are over and it will be time to start working in the field.

It is also helpful to take courses outside of school to add chiropractic techniques and skills to broaden your perspective in order to maximally help your future patients.

Arciaga: There is a light at the end of the tunnel even if it doesn't seem like it. I'm not going to sugar coat it. The first three years are tough, but put your nose to the grindstone and before you know it, you'll be in clinic. That's where it all begins to come together. It's a long road, but at the end it's worth it. Learn as much as you can, obviously. What you learn in school is extremely important, but at the same time realize that your real education begins after you graduate. School provides you with an exceptional knowledge base, but nothing prepares you to be a chiropractor except actually being a chiropractor.

Student voice

'I'm tired of waiting… I'm ready now'

Beverly King
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I wish I could say I had a school to work transition, but that would be implying I transitioned. I am still in the same part-time retail job I had in school as a way to supplement my student loan. Although I am working in the industry I hope to have my career in, I have made no progress either within my company or with others. Every job interview I have been to either for an entry-level position or even an unpaid internship has had the same reply: you don't have enough experience.

After years of working with a company in my industry of choice, I have watched people from other companies get positions they already have. Companies have adopted a disgusting trend of horizontal employment; they hire people from other companies doing the same job they are looking for to save on training costs.

Frankly I'm tired of being passed over while companies play red rover. I'm not frustrated — I'm furious. Don't tell me to be patient. I went to school for six years and continue to do so. I'm tired of waiting. I'm ready now.

My advice for students and recent grads

I wish I had advice. I could use some.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE.

Carlyle pays no mind to netminders

NHL. Leafs coach vows to continue practice of not revealing starting goalie until game day

Toronto Maple Leafs Cody Franson, centre left, competes for the puck with Tim Connolly during a training session on Tuesday in Toronto. Franson rejoined the Leafs after a stint in Sweden. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

While others are reading the tea leaves for signs of a Roberto Luongo trade to Toronto, Leafs coach Randy Carlyle seems blissfully unaware.

"I haven't even watched them," he said Tuesday when asked about incumbent goalies James Reimer and Ben Scrivens. "To tell you the truth, that's (goaltending coach) Rick St. Croix's decision right now. He's working with them. I take his input and I don't focus specifically on the goaltenders.

"Yes, I watch if they're letting every puck in. But for their technique and where they are, I get that feedback from him. He spends a lot more time with them and focusing on them. What I try to do is focus on our team game and our team play. Obviously they're part of our team and you do recognize it, but I don't focus ... specifically on them."

And as he did last season, Carlyle reminded reporters that they wouldn't get anything on his choice of starting goalie until game day.

"I never give the goaltender up. So you'll have to come to the warm-up. Don't ever expect me to give you my starting goalie," he said with a smile.

There was some drama at practice Tuesday as forwards James van Riemsdyk and Colton Orr left early after being hit by shots.

Orr went first, nursing a dislocated finger. Van Riemsdyk followed, leaving the practice rink gingerly with a bruised right foot courtesy of a Mike Komisarek shot.

With a condensed training camp and the season kicking off Saturday, injuries are more unwelcome than ever. But Carlyle seemed unfazed, despite the fact he was unsure if the injuries would sideline the two players.

There was probably just relief that van Riemsdyk, who broke his left foot last season with Philadelphia, had escaped a fracture. And Orr, a bruiser looking to show he still belongs on the team, is hardly a lynch pin.

Carlyle called the start of practice the worst of the three sessions to date, in terms of execution.

"And we told them that. That our expectations are we have to be better than that when we step out on the ice," said Carlyle. "There were a couple of drills that showed they were mentally tired."

The Toronto coach wasn't giving up much Tuesday, irked apparently that some local reporters had run too far with his earlier comments on Toronto forward Nazem Kadri, an analysis that had contained references to Anaheim's Bobby Ryan.

Carlyle was pleased at his team's work ethic.

"This team, in these three practices, has spent more time battling and more time going into those tough areas and more time stopping in front of the net than I think they did the whole time I was here last year," said Carlyle, who took over from Ron Wilson with 18 games remaining last season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Franson and Gardiner skate

- Defenceman Cody Franson rejoined the Leafs after a stint in Sweden for Brynas during the NHL lockout.
- Defenceman Jake Gardiner, recovering from a concussion, skated on his own before Tuesday's practice.
- Carlyle said Gardiner had to skate Tuesday to be in the running to play in Toronto's season opener in Montreal on Saturday.

NBA

Hot Nets hold off late surge by Raptors

Brook Lopez had 22 points and nine rebounds, Joe Johnson and Deron Williams each scored 21 points, and the Brooklyn Nets extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with a 113-106 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night.

Andray Blatche added 14 points for the Nets, in the midst of their longest winning streak since running off 14 in a row late in the 2005-06 season. A .500 team when they fired Avery Johnson late last month, Brooklyn is 9-1 under interim coach P.J. Carlesimo and has pulled within 1 1/2 games of the New York Knicks for the Atlantic Division lead.

The Nets dominated the fourth quarter again, pulling away for their sixth straight home victory.

Kyle Lowry scored 21 points for the Raptors, who have dropped two in a row but still have 10 wins in their last 15 games. Jose Calderon and Amir Johnson each finished with 15.

Lowry, who was expected to miss the second half after spraining his left ankle, brought the Raptors within eight, but seven straight points by the Nets reopened a 15-point advantage with 3:52 to go.

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Jose Calderon takes a shot on Tuesday in New York.
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Heat's James closing in on history again

NBA. Miami superstar set to become youngest to reach 20,000, and he 'could have a lot more points by now'

With 18 points against the Warriors, LeBron James will become the youngest player ever to reach 20,000 points scored. GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James was the youngest player in NBA history to win rookie of the year, to record a triple-double, to score 1,000 points, to score 10,000 points, to win MVP honours at an all-star game ...

You get the idea.

His latest youngest-to-do-it milestone could come as early as Wednesday. He needs 18 points to become the 38th NBA player to score 20,000 in his career. If it happens Wednesday when the Miami Heat visit the Golden State Warriors, James will be more than a year younger than anyone else to reach the mark.

"You look at how many players have come through this league, the history of the game," James said. "That 20K mark is very limited. How many guys have done that? It's very, very limited.

"It'll be big-time. I'm not going to shy away from that. I'm not a big stats guy as far as individual, but that'll be pretty cool."

James' teammates say he could have reached 20,000 even faster.

"If LeBron was a different kind of player, he'd have a lot more points by now," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "He's so unselfish. We give him the ball enough to score more. He just won't do it. We've had the discussion. We've sat down at dinner and we both said, 'Sometimes, I wish I had it in me.' We talk about it, we joke about it, but when the game comes, he's unselfish."

Considering James has scored at least 18 points in 74 of his last 75 games, including playoffs, the milestone would seem likely to be met against the Warriors. It's the next-to-last game of a struggle-filled road swing for the Heat. Miami is 1-3 so far on the trip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legendary company

If LeBron James scores the historic 20,000th point on Wednesday, he will have done so at the age of 28 years, 17 days.

- According to STATS LLC, the youngest to date to score 20,000 points was Kobe Bryant, who got there when he was 29 years, 122 days old.
- And only Bryant, Wilt Chamberlain (29 years, 134 days) and Michael Jordan (29 years, 326 days) reached the milestone before turning 30.

MLB

Posey, Heyward, Ellsbury top list of players going to arbitration

San Francisco catcher Buster Posey, Atlanta outfielder Jason Heyward and Boston outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury are among 133 players who have filed for salary arbitration.

Chicago Cubs pitcher Matt Garza and Giants outfielder Hunter Pence also are among those who filed Tuesday.

Six extra players filed because of a change to baseball's labour contract: Washington reliever Drew Storen, San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera, Toronto catcher Josh Thole, Tampa Bay outfielder Sam Fuld, Colorado outfielder Tyler Colvin and Arizona third baseman Chris Johnson.

Players and teams are scheduled to swap proposed salaries Friday, with hearings before three-arbitrator panels next month in Phoenix. Most cases settle before they go to hearings.

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NHL

"The pressure I feel most times is pressure I put on myself."

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby. Crosby insists the headaches and concussion-like symptoms that plagued him over the last two seasons have vanished. They disappeared over the summer, and Crosby says he's ready to attempt to regain the form that made him the most dominant player on the planet before a pair of hits to the head in January 2011 seemed to put his career in jeopardy.

NHL draft rankings

Jones ranked No. 1 at midway point

The Central Scouting Bureau released its mid-season rankings Tuesday, with Portland Winterhawks defenceman Seth Jones taking the nod as the top draft-eligible skater from North America. He was closely followed by Halifax Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CORRECTION NOTICE

Please be advised that the Metrolinx ad which appeared in Monday's newspaper had incorrect information. The public meeting on February 9, 2013 will be held at Metro Hall from 1pm-3pm rather than 6pm-8pm, as previously advertised. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

DRIVE 5

2013 Honda Civic is here

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

By comparison

1 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $17,450

2 Dodge Dart
Base price: $17,600

Style

The sedan's adjustments include completely new front and rear bodywork encompassing a more prominent grille, restyled hood and new fog and corner lights. At the opposite end, a reshaped trunk lid and bumper are flanked by a fresh set of taillights. Additionally, all trim levels feature new wheel designs.

A peek at the inner door design

2013 Honda Civic

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan.
- **Engine (hp).** 1.8-litre SOHC I4 (140); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (201))
- **Transmission.** Five-speed manual; five-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $16,900

Engine

Back again is the standard 140-horsepower 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine with the optional 201-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder repeating in the performance-oriented Si. The gas-electric Civic Hybrid's powertrain, which is rated at 110 horsepower, is unaltered.

Fuel economy

Fuel economy stats remain at 7.1 l/100 km in the city and 5.0 on the highway for automatic-transmission models (7.2/5.4 for manual-gearbox Civics and 4.4/4.2 for the fuel-efficient Hybrid). The more potent Si is rated at 10.0 l/100 km in the city and 6.4 highway.

Review. Maker fast, fine tuned new model after unjust 2012 criticism

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Well, there's nothing like a verbal poke in the eye to get your undivided attention.

Not all that long ago, Honda announced the mid-2011 arrival of its 2012-model-year Civic. Fans of the brand seemed pleased, as evidenced by the upwardly pointing sales charts. However, the press and a certain advertising-free consumer magazine gave Honda a rough ride, reporting that the Civic had an uninspired look, average handling and plasticky interior.

Now, most automakers would have simply ignored those comments. Not so, Honda. Whether motivated by its competitive instincts or by a desire to simply do better (or both), it's introducing a heavily revised 2013 Civic sedan well ahead of schedule. What a difference just a single model year makes. Structurally, changes have been initiated to improve the Civic's front-end collision protection, especially at each corner. There's high-strength steel in the A-pillars (that flank the windshield) and in the side sills below the doors.

Changes have also been made to the suspension, steering and soundproofing materials to improve ride comfort, reduce cabin noise and create a sportier driving experience.

Honda has addressed concerns regarding the Civic's interior by giving the dashboard a major makeover. There are now fewer visually irritating creases and angles and most plastic surfaces have been covered with richer-looking soft-touch materials.

The interior is appealing and stylish

It could be argued that the newly energized Civic sedan is the car that Honda should have introduced for 2012, but at least the quick response in addressing concerns will impress the legions of Civic supporters and prove the automaker's ability to make rapid change.

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HONDA

*No payments for 90 days (payment deferral) offer is available on all new 2013 Honda models financed between January 3rd, 2013 and January 31st, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Offer applies only to purchase finance offers on approved credit through Honda Financial Services Inc. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will be required to repay the principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract, but not until 90 days after the contract date. Offer ends January 31st, 2013 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Ω Limited time lease offers on a new 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease examples: based on a 2013 Honda Fit DX (Model GE8G2DEX) // 2013 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2DEX) // 2013 Honda Accord LX Sedan (Model CR2E3DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (RM3H3DES) on a 48 // 48 // 48 month term at 2.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% // 3.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $177.99 // $197.99 // $287.99 // $328.00 [includes $1,495 // $1,495 // $1,640 // $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100 except Fit DX and Civic DX), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $1,578 // $1,061 // $2,328 // $2,106 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $10,121.52 // $10,564.52 // $16,151.52 // $17,850.00. 96,000 -kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ••Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012. ◊Cargo space calculated on volume behind second-row seats with rear-seats up for two-row vehicles in segment and third-row seats with rear seats up for three-row vehicles in segment. Compact Segment classification based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC). All measurements sourced from data published by each manufacturer. ‡Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ΔText message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

After a quick check up, you will vote for this Lincoln

Second Gear.
2007-2010
Lincoln MKX

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: HANDOUT

The MKX was Lincoln's entry to the luxury crossover segment occupied by such brands as BMW, Infiniti, Lexus and Audi when it hit the market for the 2010 model year.

Like most of its competition, it packed V6 power, available all-wheel drive (AWD), heaps of leather and numerous high-end features like a premium audio system by THX, leather seating, Bluetooth, navigation, an oversized sunroof and plenty more.

Common Issues

Reports of bad rear wheel bearings mean that test-drivers should listen for a fairly loud roaring noise from the rear of the vehicle. If present, be sure to have the repair calculated into your purchase price.

The sensors and computer that control the MKX's transmission may also be an issue — so note any clumsy, hard shifting or slipping as you drive. Transmission problems are likely to be electronic and not mechanical in nature — though shoppers are advised to ensure that this is the case. Shoppers should also check the MKX's underside (or have it checked professionally) for signs of leakage from the transmission, differential or PTU — which splits power up between the axles for the AWD system. Numerous owners have noted issues with these components leaking, which could cause problems.

Check Engine or other warning lights can illuminate for numerous reasons—many of which are sensor-related. Be sure to note the presence of any such lights in the instrument cluster.

Engine

All models got a six-speed automatic transmission and 3.5 litre, 265-horsepower engine. Front-wheel drive was standard and automatic AWD was optional.

What owners like

Styling, comfort, power and handling are often highly-rated by MKX owners. The THX stereo system, interior roominess, flexibility and seat comfort are highly rated as well.

What owners dislike

Many MKX owners wish for more steering feel, better fuel economy, and stronger feedback through the brake pedal.

Verdict

The MKX's unique style and sporty performance are likely to be big draws to it as a used vehicle — though a full check-over by a mechanic should be considered mandatory.

Fight fraud when buying a used car

Safe purchase tips.
Following these eight pieces of advice will help you beat the curbsiders

As with any major purchase, you need to do your due diligence when buying a used car.
Here are eight important tips to avoid scams and to make sure the vehicle is right for you:

1. Ask yourself is this too good to be true?
Always question a deal that seems too good to be true.

2. Beware of certain sellers
Be wary of dealing with a private seller who has numerous cars listed at the same time. They could be a curbsider — an unlicensed individual, dealer or retailer who buys up vehicles and instead of registering them under their own name, posts the same vehicles for sale with a mark-up. The curbsider might hide major issues or turn back the odometer in order to make a quick, profitable sale.

3. Meeting face-to-face is a must
Don't do business with a seller who won't meet face-to-face. Be on your guard if they'll only talk with you by phone or email.

4. Ensure appropriate paperwork is present and correct
Purchase a CarProof vehicle history report for a detailed Canadian and U.S. history of the vehicle along with registration details and lien information. The CarProof report will also contain branding and odometer details and tell you if the vehicle is actively reported as stolen.

5. Double check your details
Ask the seller for proof of identity and check that the seller's name and address matches up with the information on the actual vehicle registration form. Verify the vehicle identification number (VIN), the car's details and the colour of the car with the registration form, insurance slips and with the CarProof report. One way curbsiders commit used vehicle fraud is by falsifying these details.

6. Do a pre-purchase inspection at a location of your choosing.
Take the vehicle for a pre-purchase inspection to a place of your choosing. If the seller insists on using one specific facility, this could be a red flag. Many curbsiders team up with someone who will look the other way when doing inspections or misrepresent the vehicle's current condition.

7. No cash before seeing the car
Don't pay before you get the vehicle and be wary if the seller demands cash only. If the seller requests a third-party escrow service, investigate the service to make sure it's legitimate and secure, as many online escrow sites are fraudulent.

8. Fools rush in, so don't be one.
Don't let yourself be rushed into a decision to buy the vehicle.

Have a check list before you hand over cash and take those keys.
HANDOUT

Take your time to ask questions and make an informed decision.
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Detroit show sets party tone for '13

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The new Maserati Quattroporte has a 191 mph top speed ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Hyundai Genesis also impressed in Detroit

The North American economy is far from full recovery, but you wouldn't guess it over here at the Detroit auto show. It's a party.

Almost every brand is coming off a great 2012 sales year, and most have lots of new products coming on stream in 2013. And while there is always talk about new green advances, we're not getting hit over the head with them. Seems like the automakers know green is a given, and are happy to simultaneously work on and celebrate all the other stuff — the more fun stuff — that continues to forge that emotional connection many of us have with our vehicles.

Power to the People

And one of the most emotional-rich cars on the planet — the Chevrolet Corvette — kicked off the show with the unveiling of its latest iteration. Too many go-faster stuff to go through today, but highlights include 450-horses, a seven-speed manual transmission that automatically matches revs for fast and smooth downshifts, and lots of aluminum and carbon fibre. The styling is muscular and purposeful, and was dictated, as is should be for a sports car of this calibre, by many sessions in the wind tunnel. Another notable performance beast that debuted at Detroit was the all-new Maserati Quattroporte. The outgoing model is incredibly beautiful and they were smart enough to more or less keep the same styling, and just make it bigger, faster and stronger. It's even lighter, to make better use of its awesome V6 and V8 Ferrari-made engines. Top speed on the V8 model is 191 mph.

Small and Spunky

All that power on display at Detroit may have induced Honda CEO and presenter, Takanobu Ito, to remind everyone that Honda still feels that "small cars are the key to the future." He then unveiled the Honda Urban SUV Concept, a small SUV based on the Honda Fit platform. A production version of this concept, and the new-generation Fit coming in 2014, will both be produced at a plant Honda will open soon in Mexico. The world's best selling car, Toyota Corolla, is due soon for its makeover, and at Detroit we got a glimpse of what the next-gen Corolla might look like, in the form of the Corolla Furia concept. It looks pretty sporty and righteous — especially for a Corolla. Toyota has gone on record recently saying they want/need to spice things up a bit, so I guess we shouldn't be surprised.

SUVs Forever

The show also reinforced that we are still clearly in the age of the SUV. There are so many of these things in the market now, and so many more to come. VW badly needs a "midsize" SUV with seven-seat capability. To that end it created the CrossBlue SUV concept, specifically for U.S. and Canada. Seven-seat SUVs have effectively replaced minivans, and CrossBlue retains one of the minivan's best features — individual seats in the rear (keeps siblings apart and happy). CrossBlue also features a diesel-electric plug-in hybrid powertrain. Lincoln also debuted an SUV concept. The Lincoln MKC is based on Ford's ubiquitous C-platfom (think Focus and Escape), and would be, if built, the smallest Lincoln on offer. As we talked about before, luxury makers are no longer afraid to go "small."

More to Come

As the first auto show of 2013, Detroit often sets the mood for the coming automotive year. The mood was definitely up this year, higher than it's been since that kick in the rear called 2008. Party on Garth.

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†Coverage begins from the original new retail sale date and covers 7-years/140,000-kilometres, whichever comes first. ‡0.9% APR only for well qualified buyers; not all buyers will qualify. Amount of down payment and other factors may affect qualification. 0.9% APR available on all models and all qualifying model years (the 5 model years immediately preceding the date of this advertisement, or newer) for up to 24-month terms. Based on a representative example of $15,000 financed at 0.9% over 24 months equals monthly payments of $630.88 with $0 down payment, cost of borrowing is $141.03 with a total obligation of $15,141.03. Licence, insurance, taxes, down payment, and, where applicable, PPSA and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at time of purchase. Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offer subject to change without notice. Visit your participating dealer for complete details.

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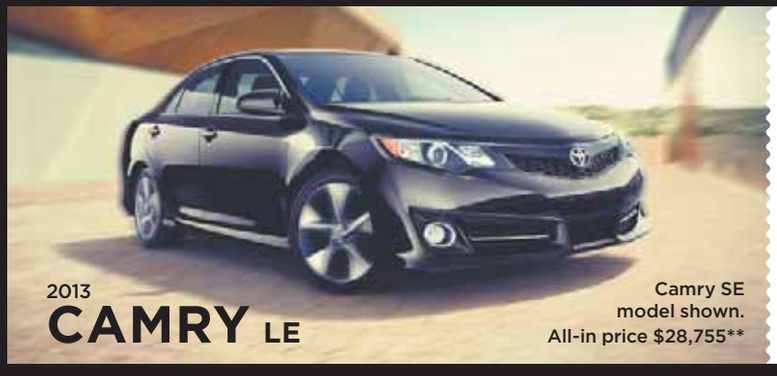

2013
CAMRY LE

Camry SE model shown.
All-in price $28,755**

ALL-IN PRICE | **$25,400*** Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

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Venza V6 AWD Touring Package model shown.
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2013
COROLLA CE

Corolla S with Moonroof model shown.
All-in price $23,860**

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TOYOTA

Limited time finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. **All-in price of a new 2013 Corolla S (Model BU44EMB)/2013 Venza V6 AWD Touring Package (Model BK3BBTC)/2013 Camry SE (Model BF1FSTA) is $23,860/$40,070/$28,755. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. *All-in price of a new 2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA)/2013 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA) is $16,950/$30,460/$25,400. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ¥0.0%/0.9%/2.9% purchase finance APR on a new 2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Venza FWD (Model ZA3BBTA)/2013 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA) for 72/72/72 months equals a bi-weekly payment of $104/$194/$178 for 156/156/156 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of $0/$0/$0, when you apply the $750/$1,000/$0 Customer Incentive. Cost of borrowing is $0/$814/$2,304, for a total obligation of $16,200/$30,274/$27,705. ▼$750/$1,000 Customer Incentive on a new 2013 Corolla CE Manual/2013 Venza FWD is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between January 3, 2013 and January 31, 2013. Offers are valid between January 3, 2013 and January 31, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.

No mountain? No deal. The right tire will have the right symbol

Driving Force.
When buying your vehicle's rubber, look for the mountain and snowflake logo to ensure it's for winter

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

When you're buying tires for winter, you need to look for the mountain and snowflake. This little logo, of a snowflake inside a mountain peak, is molded into tires that meet the standard for winter tread.

However, while the logo indicates winter use, it means the tire meets a minimum standard and is not by itself a measure of the tire's quality. It's based on a tread pattern used as the industry standard. The tire must exceed the standard by 10 per cent to qualify for the logo.

Quoted

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's basically straight-line performance."

Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada
On how winter tires are tested

"The testing is very easy, in simple terms, because it's basically straight-line performance," says Dino Tenuta, senior technical services manager for Bridgestone Canada. "It doesn't take cornering into account. The logo was initially intended for consumers to identify a winter tire, but it's so easy to achieve that rating. You need to look beyond the mountain/snowflake, and do research on tire performance."

While many people think that winter tires are simply "snow tires," they're more than that. Rubber gets hard when it's cold. The rubber compound in winter tires is formulated to stay flexible in low temperatures, which improves its grip on dry or icy pavement.

Their tread is more aggressive, which helps them bite into snow, but they're also designed to channel away slush and water. If slush builds up on the tire, it dramatically reduces the tire's grip.

On wet pavement, the tread pushes water away so the rubber makes contact with the asphalt below.

If it doesn't, the tire can "float" on the water above the asphalt, a dangerous situation known as hydroplaning.

All-season tires can be used in winter, although they are a compromise. Their rubber compound is designed to stay supple in colder temperatures and firm in hot weather, but their tread isn't as aggressive as that of a winter tire, since it would be too noisy for summer use.

Some tires are called "all-weather," meaning they are all-season tires that have the mountain/snowflake logo.

These can be used all year in jurisdictions where winter tires are mandatory, such as in Quebec, but they are still not as good for cornering or stopping as a dedicated winter tire.

Advice

- **Some tires are marked "Mud & Snow," or M/S.** This simply means it's an all-season tire, and is not specifically rated for winter if it doesn't have the mountain/snowflake logo
- **When to use.** You should use Winter tires any time the temperature drops below 7C, since their grip on cold pavement is better than an all-season tires.

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Monster truck mom has big crush on the sport

Dawn Creten.
Mother of four will be competing at this weekend's World Finals in Toronto

EOIN WELDON
drive@metronews.ca

Dawn Creten. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Dawn in action in her truck, the Scarlet Bandit

Dawn takes flight in the Scarlet Bandit.

It's fair to say Dawn Creten is a busy woman. When she's not raising her four children, she's off putting food on the table by crushing cars and buses with a 10,000-pound monster truck.

Her husband Jim — who is also a monster truck competitor — is the reason why she found and embraced the sport. Since her debut in 1997, she has collected numerous event titles and has graced, on more than one occasion, the sport's largest and most prestigious stage — the Monster Jam World Finals.

Toronto is this year's lucky host of the Monster Jam World Finals and this weekend Mrs. Creten is in town to crush some cars and hopefully take home some titles. She spoke to me about her targets for the finals, family life and the adrenaline of the sport.

What targets have you set yourself for this weekend's Monster Jam World Finals in Toronto?
Well looking at the line up, there are 16 terrific trucks there, so hopefully my husband and myself can end up in the finals together. As far as freestyle goes, hopefully I can go the whole 90 seconds, hit every obstacle and get a good score.

What's your proudest achievement in the sport?
It's probably the world finals in 2009, when I took second in the freestyle out of 24 trucks, so that was a proud achievement for me.

Is it hard to balance raising your kids while competing on the monster truck circuit?
It is hard because I usually leave for shows Thursday or Friday and would come home Monday, so that would only leave me three or four days at home with my kids during (the) first quarter, so it's hard to keep everyone lined up, as I only have three or four days to get everything in order, but it's doable and I enjoy (it).

Would you support one of your daughters if she decided to follow in your footsteps?
Absolutely, it's a great industry to be in and it would be wonderful to have more women in the industry. It's come a long way in that respect since I started, but I'd like to see it come a lot further and yes I would encourage any of my daughters to compete.

Would you prefer freestyle or racing?
Freestyle is like the show off bit, so I've always enjoyed freestyle a lot more than racing.

Your husband is a Monster truck racer too, so can you tell me how you two met?
We met back in 1997 in North Dakota. He had just finished a monster truck rally and I was at a concert and he came to the concert after his rally and we got talking. I had never even heard of monster trucks before I met him. He told me what he did and I thought it was neat. I called him back a few days later and he was heading to Minnesota to another event and I asked him if I could I go with him and he picked me up. We've never looked back since and I've stayed with him from that point until now.

It looks like a fun, bumpy ride, but can you describe the adrenaline and sheer terror of competing in a monster truck event in front of a big crowd?
When I first started, my leg was shaking like crazy. I didn't know how I was going to drive with my leg shaking like that. But now I have experience and I try to pace it out these days. But when you're up in the air, yes there is definitely an adrenaline rush.
But, I've never been injured, even though I've had end-over-end rolls, never even broke a nail.

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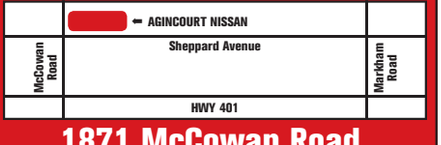

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Thanks for reading the fine print. Advertised vehicles are as follows, 2013 Nissan Rogue FWD S (W6RG13 AA00) MSRP $23978.00, payment of $245.00 is plus HST and is calculated at an interest rate of 0.9%, 60 month lease term, optional lease end residual is $8632.00, annual kilometer limit is 20,000 kms,$1000.00 plus first payment ($276.60) and license is due at lease signing, 2013 Nissan Altima 2.5 (T4LG13 AA00) MSRP $23698.00, payment of $275.00 is plus HST and is calculated at an interest rate of 2.9%, 60 month lease term, optional lease end residual is $9716.18, annual kilometer limit is 20,000 kms, $1000.00 plus first payment ($310.49) and license is due at lease signing, 2013 Nissan Sentra 1.8S CVT ($17548.00), payment of $214.71 is plus HST and is calculated at an interest rate of 2.9%, 60 month lease term, optional lease end residual is $7194.00, annual kilometer limit is 20,000 kms, $1000.00 plus first payment ($242.62) and license is due at lease signing, 2013 Nissan Versa Sedan 1.8SV (B4SG13 AE00) MSRP $15498.00, payment of $115.00 is calculated on a bi weekly finance option for a term of 84 months, interest rate is 3.9%, total cost of borrowing is $2627.00, all specials are in effect for a limited time and must be in dealer's inventory, other finance, lease and cash purchase options are available, all finance and lease proposals are subject to approval criteria as set out by Nissan Canada Finance, subprime finance options are available, call for complete details or visit us at www.agincourtnissan.ca <http://www.agincourtnissan.ca> , all information is deemed to be accurate at time of print, calculation errors, if any, will be clearly posted in dealer showroom.

Audi RS5 passes with flying colours

Test drive. 2013 model shines during apocalypse-day exam in nasty blizzard

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

December 21, 2012. According to Facebook, the world was about to end in a fiery apocalypse, and I'd soon arrive in hell at 8,500 RPM with a smile on my face. Probably sideways.

I'd just picked up the Audi RS5 for review. It's powered by the same highly-strung V8 as the Audi R8 supercar. You get 450 horsepower, and a paddle-shift transmission that changes gears in fractions of a second. Thanks to Quattro AWD included as standard, you can enjoy all of those horsepower and gears all year round.

The RS5 would let your writer go out with a bang. It's like a supercar wearing touring car clothes. Or an R8 with a back seat. It's a track-tuned weapon, and the highest-performing machine in this model range. It's also a car that virtually stands alone in offering this level of performance and all-climate readiness in a single package.

And not that you'd pay a speeding ticket on apocalypse day, but from a glance, RS5 is discreet enough to slip past your local radar-cop unnoticed — so long as you aren't belting screamer V8 noises out of the watermelon-sized exhausts.

Late afternoon. No zombies, earthquakes or fireballs had yet presented themselves. Inch after powdery inch of fluffy snow, however, had. I'd taken apocalypse day off, and apparently (and delightfully), it looked like the snow-plow drivers did, too.

I spent the afternoon exploring the RS5's highway capabilities in deep snow.

Point and shoot performance comes thanks to Quattro's extraction of maximum traction from any surface. No issues getting off the line or around corners, even with the front lip plowing snow. Turn the traction control off, and you can get around in as sideways, snow-flinging a manner as you like. The winter tires float on deep snow more than they dig in (blame their massive width) but you do feel very confident and well backed up.

Mind you, much of the RS5's capabilities are wasted in a snowstorm. So, thankfully, the cabin's leather-lined, aluminum-trimmed, high-tech atmosphere proved a relaxing, laid-back place to wait for Judgment Day.

The sun came back up on December 22, meaning shoppers will still find the RS5 available for all-climate hardcore motoring thrills at dealers from $77,000.

RS5 Quick summary

Engine. 4.2 litre V8, DOHC, FSI, 450 horsepower

Drivetrain. Quattro AWD

Observed Average Mileage. 15L / 100km

Transmission. 7-speed dual-clutch with launch control

Features. Speed-deployable spoiler, ceramic brakes, Bang and Olufsen Stereo, Bluetooth, navigation, headlamp washers

Price As Tested. $77,000-$93,000

The durable and high performance Audi RS5 tackles the wind and snow. HANDOUT

Boredom fighter

How to enjoy the RS5 when stuck behind a snow plow.

- **Learn a new language.** Set the infotainment system to Spanish, German or Japanese in the settings menu. Then, try your hand at navigating through the various controls for the stereo, Bluetooth or navigation system.
- **Play music with the paddle shifters.** The RS5's paddle-shift gearbox shifts in a blink – making the exhaust note change pitch faster than Niki Minaj's auto-tune machine. Click away at the shift paddles and start experimenting.
- **Make people point at the spoiler.** Repeatedly click the 'deploy rear spoiler' button, and you can make it wave at the passengers in the car behind you.
- **Rediscover your favorite music.** RS5's Bang and Olufsen stereo system is vibrant, clear and extremely crisp. You'll hear details in music you've never heard before—especially if playing back from a CD or DVD.

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DISCLAIMER: *Offer available on retail leases of new 2013 CX-5(NVXK63AA00)/2013 Mazda3 GX (D4XS53AA00)/with a lease APR of 4.99%/2.99% and monthly payments of $319/$189 48/60 months, the total lease obligation is $18,300/$13,319 including down payment of $2,995/$1,950. As shown, 2013 CX-5 GT (NXTK83AA00) with lease APR of 4.99% and monthly payments of $485 for 48 months, the total lease obligation is $25,227, including down payment of $1,950. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of $1,895. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies Offers exclude HST. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Many other lease offers available. ‡5.7 L/100 km (50 MPG) Highway– Based on ENERGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2013 CX-5 with 6-speed manual transmission & ‡‡6.0 L/100 km (47 MPG) Highway for the 2012 Mazda3 GX sedan with 6-speed manual transmission.. These estimates are based on Government of Canada approved criteria and testing methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary. MPG is listed in Imperial gallons. Up to $1,000 Dealer Signing Bonuses are available on retail purchase/ finance/lease of all new remaining, in-stock 2012 Mazda models until program changes. $500 Dealer Signing Bonus applies to new 2012 Mazda3/2012 Mazda5/2012 Mazda6 models. Maximum $1,000 Dealer Signing Bonus applies to new 2012 CX-9 models. Dealer Signing Bonus can only be applied against the purchase price of a new 2012 Mazda3/2012 Mazda5/2012 CX-9/2012 Mazda6 [or accessories to such purchase]. No cash surrender value. Visit yorkdaledufferinmazda.ca for details. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2012 and 2013 Mazda vehicles. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $23,555 for the new 2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00) with a financed amount of $20,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $0, monthly payment is $238.10, total finance obligation is $20,000. ††Finance Pricing for new 2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK62AA00)/2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00) is $20,745/$23,555 financed at 0%/0% over 84/84 months equals bi-weekly payments of $103/$119 with $1,950/$1,950 down payment, cost of borrowing is $0/$0 with a total obligation of $20,745/$23,555 All offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST.

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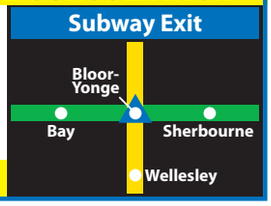

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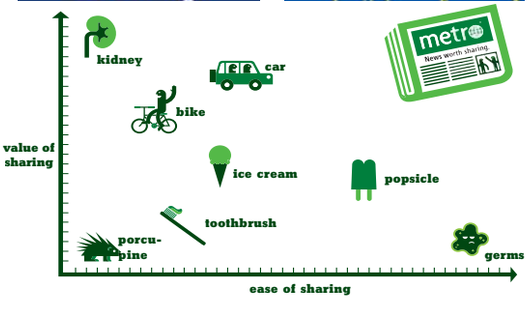


See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You won't lack for chances to move up in the world, but you have got to be quick. If you keep your eyes and ears open over the next two or three days, you will take great strides towards your ultimate goal.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Your philosophy of life will change before the end of the week, giving you a better grasp of what is truly important. Remember: No one changes before they are ready to do so — and you are ready now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even if you have done something you should not have done, there is no point feeling guilty about it because you cannot turn back the clock. You should be looking forward to the future. It holds so much promise.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The planets will help you to sweep away the past and create some kind of new beginning between now and the end of the week. If that means getting rid of people who hold you back, so much the better.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Do you change something a bit at a time, or do you throw yourself at it and finish it in one mad dash? That is the question you need to answer today. Make sure you get it right. There is a lot at stake.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stick to your strengths today and over the next 72 hours. Yes, of course, you should be ambitious but that does not mean you have to start something new. Maybe you should just do what you do already.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you love and respect will fly off the handle for no good reason today. If you are smart, you will pretend you have not noticed. It's only a minor incident, so why risk making a big issue of it?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make the most of the Sun's last few days in Capricorn to travel. It does not matter if your journey is short or long, it matters only that you are on the move. What you discover will brighten up your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Cash flow problems may be ongoing but between now and the Sun's change of signs at the weekend you will understand what needs to be done to improve things. Next time though, make sure you do it a bit sooner.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
More than anything else, you need to be ruthless with yourself and get rid of all those things that you no longer need. According to the planets, that's rather a lot. You could make a small fortune on eBay.

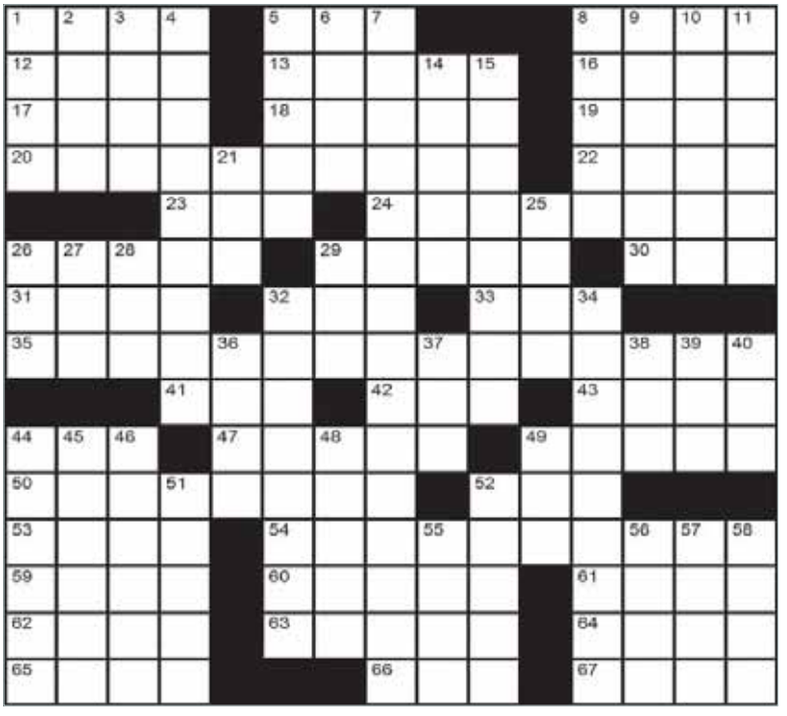
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you are hurting in any way then you must open up and let loved ones know about it. Because you always put on a brave face, they may be completely unaware that you need a shoulder to cry on.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Sometimes you can be too cautious but today you'll be inspired to get up, get out and get busy on the kind of project that can change the world. Do you think that's too ambitious? If anything it's not ambitious enough.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

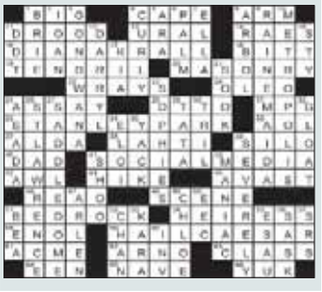
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Comet's follower
5. Joke
8. Poetic contraction
12. "__ __, Brute?" - Caesar in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene 1
13. WWII threat
16. "Able was _ __..." (Palindrome start)
17. Printer's colour
18. Trim
19. Li'l house spot
20. MC Hammer style: 2 wds.
22. Coup d'__
23. Napoleonic†Wars marshal
24. Oust
26. Dance/fitness program
29. "Beau __" (1939)
30. Never: German
31. Without _ __ (Penniless)
32. Li'l office
33. City, informally
35. Currer Bell was her pen name: 2 wds.
41. Mr. Butler, for short
42. Shed tool
43. __ in Canada
44. Some ER cases alas
47. Yellow Fever mosquitoes
49. James Cameron's "The __"
50. 16th Prime Minister: 2 wds.
52. Evita's li'l land
53. 'Cred' suffix
54. Prehistoric link to the New World, Bering __: 2 wds.
59. Belgian songwriter Jacques
60. How fresh fish gets packed: 2 wds.
61. Study
62. Departed
63. "Modern Family" star Ms. Vergara
64. __ a hand
65. Legend Ms. Gardner's
66. Office tel. line
67. Video game maker

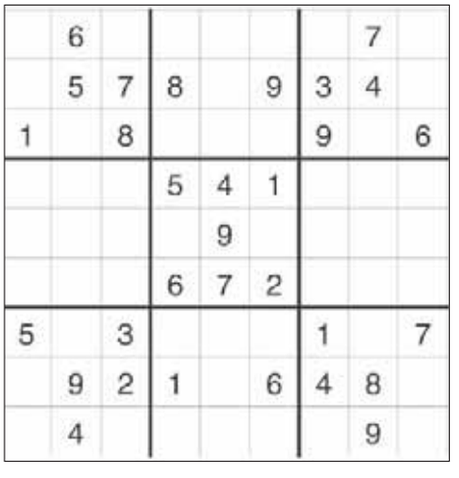
Down
1. __-savvy
2. "Right back __ __!"
3. __-TASS (Russian news agency)
4. Old Town __, NS (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
5. Aquarium fish
6. Spell-starter
7. Have "work" done: 4 wds.
8. Rome's river
9. Galen of President's Choice commercials
10. Menswear designer
11. Glam furniture piece
14. Poker stakes
15. Scientist's glass: 2 wds.
21. Culpa's partner
25. Munich mister
26. Mr. Efron
27. Work the aisles, in slang
28. New Zealand bird
29. __ instinct
32. Aurora __
34. Global series set in a munitions factory: 2 wds.
36. Actress Sharon
37. Greek dawn goddess
38. Fancy 'not'
39. QB's feats
40. poet mr. cummings, and others
44. Ontario's Port Burwell, the new permanent home of Cold War-era sub HMCS __
45. Ex-Degrassi actress Nina who stars on "The Vampire Diaries"
46. Ms. Gomez
48. Liquid-Plumr competitor
49. Coming-in-plane, e.g.
51. Boston's NBA team, for short
52. Skip _ __
55. Gladiator's 609
56. "Groove Is in the Heart" by __-Lite
57. Turf ruler
58. Scandinavian story

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

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Forte SX shown△

Optima SX Turbo shown△

Soul 4u Luxury shown△

2013 FORTE

HWY (A/T): 5.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 8.0L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$112**≠ BI-WEEKLY

WITH **$0** DOWN

AT **0.9%** APR

FOR UP TO **60** MONTHS

BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY◊ | STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROL

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $5,751 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,988 and **$1,000 LOAN SAVINGS§. BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $20,683.** Offer based on 2013 Forte Sedan LX + AT.

2013 OPTIMA

HWY (A/T): 5.6L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 8.6L/100KM

NOW ONLY **$19,983**◢

INCLUDES **$4,000** IN CASH SAVINGS†

HEATED SEATS | BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY◊ | ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,988 and **$4,000 CASH SAVINGS†. BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $23,983.** Offer based on 2013 Optima LX MT.

2013 SOUL

HWY (M/T): 6.7L/100KM
CITY (M/T): 8.5L/100KM

OWN IT FROM **$128**≠ BI-WEEKLY

WITH **$0** DOWN

AT **2.49%** APR

FOR UP TO **60** MONTHS

HEATED SEATS | ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

bi-weekly for 60 months, amortized over 84 months with **$0 DOWN PAYMENT.** $6,493 remaining balance. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $2,183. **BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $21,378**. Offer based on 2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT.

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Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by January 31, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) with a selling price of $29,078 financed at 0% APR for 60 months. 130 bi-weekly payments equal $224 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. ∞ "Don't Pay Until Spring" offer (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on select new 2012/2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After 90 days, interest accrues and the purchaser will repay both the principal and interest monthly over the contract's term. ◢Cash purchase price for 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) is $19,983 and includes a cash savings of $4,000 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers). Retailer may sell for less. †$4,000 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX MT (OP541D) from a participating dealer between January 3–31, 2013 is deducted from the selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C for new 2013 Forte Sedan LX + AT (FO74PD)/2013 Soul 2.0L 2u MT (SO553D) based on a selling price of $20,683/$21,378 is $112/$128 with an APR of 0.9%/2.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $5,751/$6,493 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. §Loan savings for 2013 Forte Sedan LX + AT (FO74PD) is $1,000 and is available on purchase financing only O.A.C. Loan savings vary by model and are deducted from the selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. △Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D)/2013 Forte SX Luxury (FO74XD)/2013 Soul 2.0L 4u Luxury AT (SO759D) is $35,550/$27,150/$27,345 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,455/$1,650, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ^Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Optima 2.4 GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Forte Sedan 2.0L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Soul 2.0L MPI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. ◊The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.